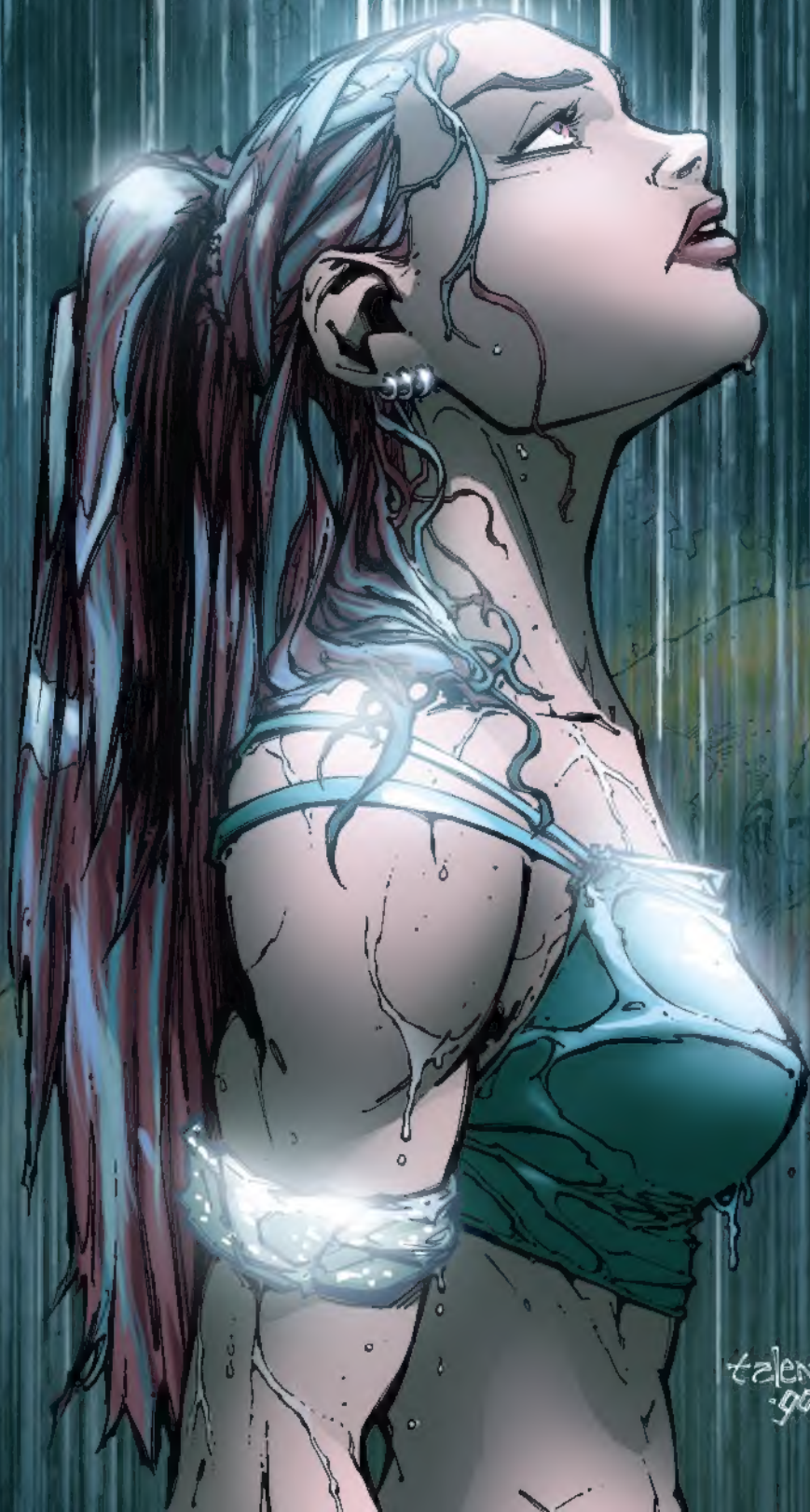




MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM
DAWN *of* WAR
BEGINNINGS



talented03
gardner
Kell

Fathom Created by
Michael Turner

BEGINNINGS

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM DAWN of WAR



TALENT CALDWELL
story & pencils

JASON GORDER
inks

IAN HANNIN
colors

DREAMER DESIGN
letters

Digital Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO, VINCE HERNANDEZ Design and Production: JOSH REED, MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER President: FRANK MASTROMAURO Vice President: PETER STEIGERWALD Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED
Marketing Assistant: STEPHANIE MATSON Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™, DAWN OF WAR, BEGINNINGS Vol. 1

JANUARY 2011, DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc., Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite. 111, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Fathom™ and the Fathom logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2011 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL 1800-COMICBOOK

FWUMP! FWUMP! FWUMP!

Y'HEAR THAT?

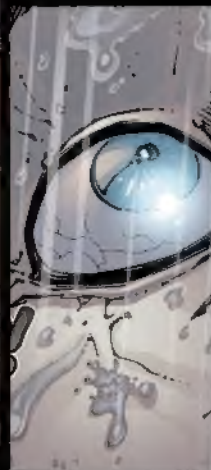
'BOUT DAMN TIME.

LIEUTENANT BARRET?

ADMIRAL?

CONTACT THE NIMITZ, PATCH A CHANNEL THROUGH TO THE SITE. LET THEM KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE CARGO AND TO MAKE READY FOR OUR ARRIVAL.

AYE, SIR.





SOMETHING
TERRIBLE
HAPPENED

SOMETHING
INCOMPREHENSIBLE.
BEYOND ANY
PRETENSE...
ANY BELIEF

IN A MULTITUDE OF MILLENNIA
IT HAD NEVER HAPPENED
BEFORE. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

IT STILL IS...

HOW IT HAPPENED? WHY? WHEN?
ANSWERS I'D LIKE TO KNOW, BUT TWO
QUESTIONS I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW TO ASK.
DIDN'T KNOW THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO.

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED, AND I
HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA, THAT IT HAD
ALREADY... HAPPENED... NOT EVEN AWARE.

THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE MADE
HISTORY. PRETENSE NOW FACT.

THE WORLD CHANGED
BECAUSE OF THIS... AND
THIS CHANGED EVERYTHING
I THOUGHT I KNEW
ABOUT MY WORLD.

HARD TO BELIEVE...

...IT STILL IS
HARD TO BELIEVE.

BUT, AT THIS MOMENT NO WAR
HAS BEGUN, NO POPULATIONS
OBLITERATED THE WORLD HASN'T
CHANGED AND MY WORLD IS
STILL JUST AS I KNOW...

...OR BELIEVE.

MY PARENTS, THEY DIED IN THE
DESTRUCTION OF MARIELLE
OVER A HALF CENTURY AGO.
...NEVER KNEW THEM.

HUMAN CARELESSNESS
AND EGO, THEY SAY, KILLED
OUR UNDERSEA "UTOPIA."

FOCUS
KIANI!

ARRH!

STILL
TEMPERMENTAL.
AS ANGRY AS THE
DAY I FOUND
YOU.

"FOUND YOU"? YEAH,
I NEVER GOT THAT EITHER.

THE ACADEMY'S TRAINING
MENTOR, SENZEN CASQUE,
RAISED ME... TRAINED ME...
EDUCATED ME IN CRAFTS
AND ARTS LONG FORGOTTEN.

HE BECAME MY
FAMILY... MY
ONLY FAMILY.

I TOOK A JOB
DAMN NEAR
BRED FOR IT.

I WAS BRANDED ONTO
THE HIGH COUNCIL'S
CHIEF SECURITY STAFF

NICE

HIS HEADBAND
AN HEIRLOOM.

HE WANTED ME TO
HAVE IT. SAYS IT HOLDS
SOME RESONANCE...
ER, SOMETHING...
I SHOULD LISTEN.

"SHEPHERD'S FIELD."

IT'S WHERE HE TRAINED
US, ME, HIS CLASSES,
HIS CURRENT CLASSES.

IT WAS THERE... THAT
IT HAPPENED: WHERE
THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE
WAS MADE HISTORY.

IT, THE PEBBLE THAT CAUSED
A THOUSAND RIFPLES.

THAT, DESPITE OUR
SHARED SEMBLANCE,
NOTWITHSTANDING THOSE
SELECT FEW OF US CAPABLE
OF... A LITTLE MORE...

...FURTHER GREATERED
THE DIVIDE BETWEEN THE
TERRESTRIAL HUMAN RACE
AND US, THE BLUE, AN
AQUATIC RACE.

IT WILL FASHION
OUR WORLDS TO
ACT DIFFERENTLY.

THINK...
DIFFERENTLY.

CHANGE.

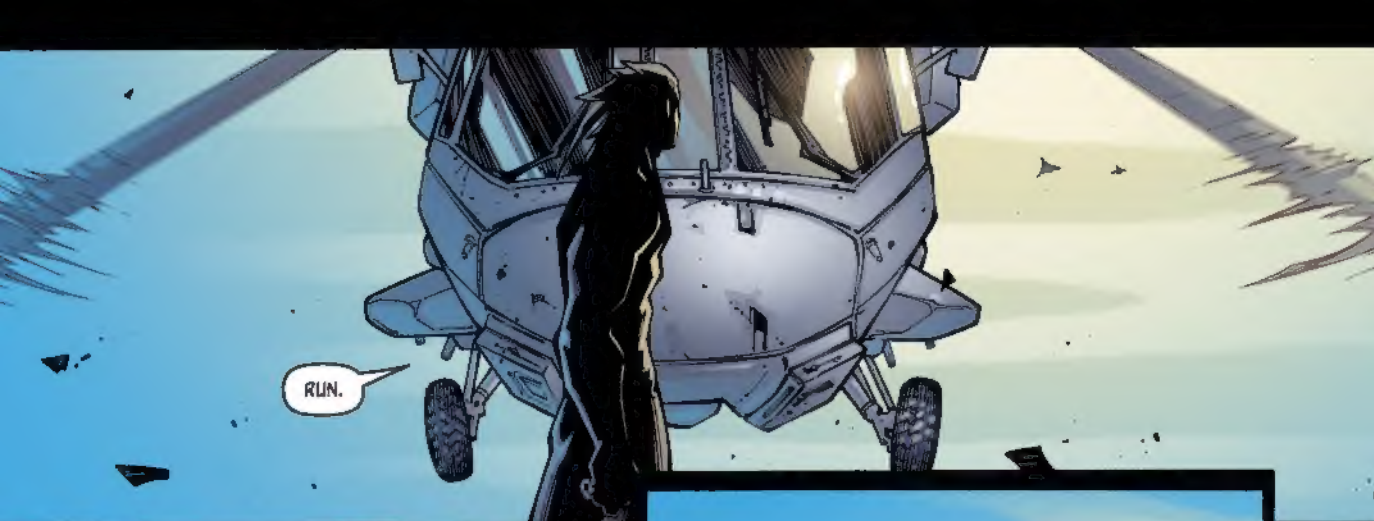
FIGHT.

DEFY.

PLUNDER.

BREAK, OR
BE BROKEN.

ARMAGEDDON, DOOMSDAY,
HOLOCAUST... THEY'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO MAKE UP A NEW WORD
FOR WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.





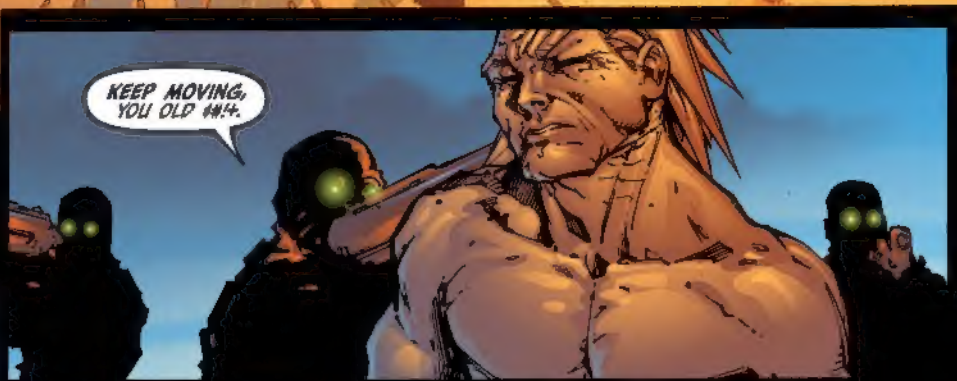
CHECK
YOUR FIRE!

THESE THINGS
ARE NO GOOD TO US
DEAR RESTRICT YOUR
APPROACH TO
DEBILITATING SHOTS
ONLY.

ROGER
THAT.



KEEP MOVING,
YOU OLD #14.



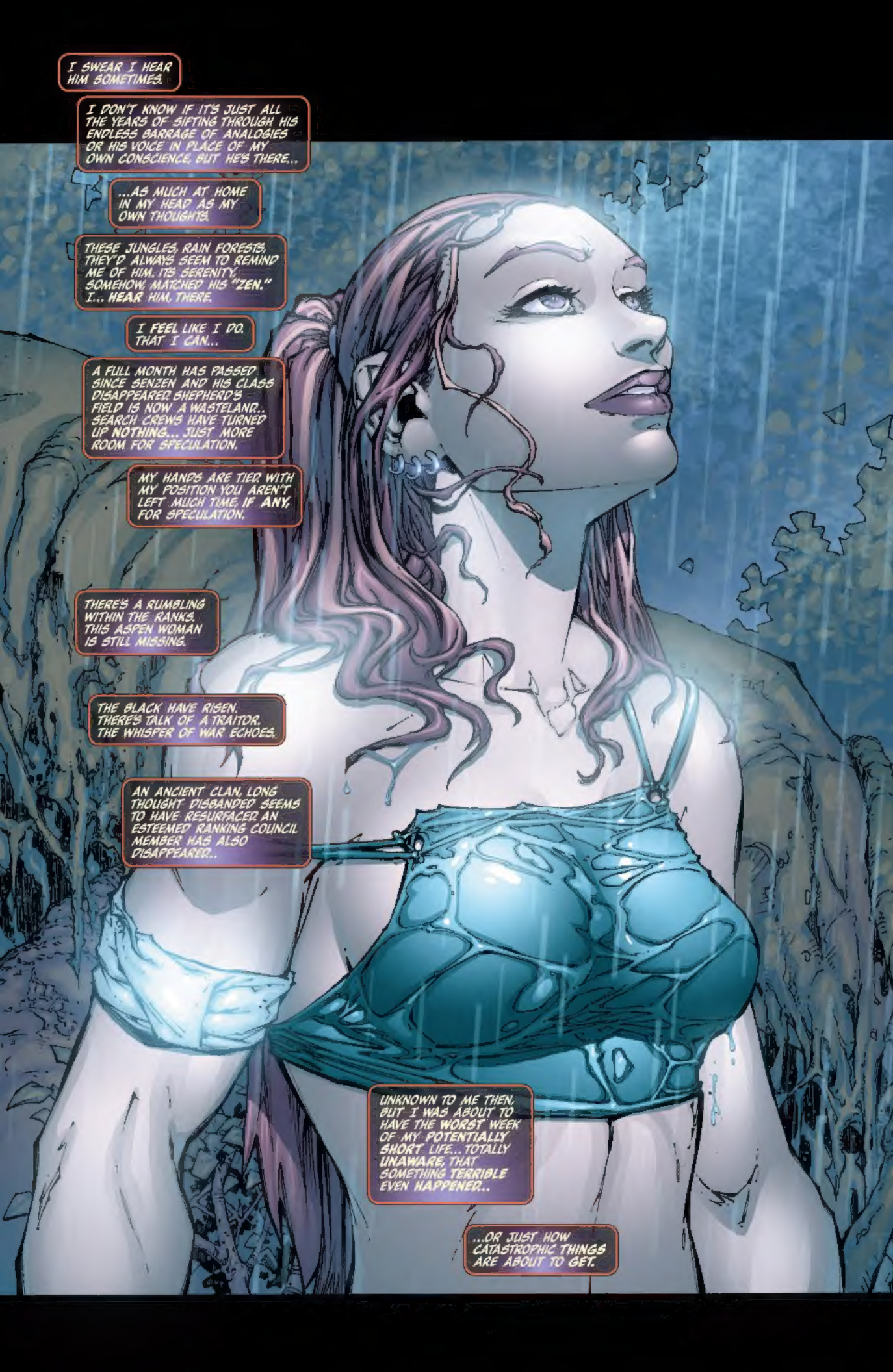
"SUPPRESS YOUR
EMOTIONS..."



"...DON'T BECOME
ANGERED OR DEFENSIVE,
REACT OR WOE THEY
WILL ONLY BLIND YOU,
AND MAKE YOU OPEN
TO MISSTEE"

SENZEN...

KIANG



I SWEAR I HEAR
HIM SOMETIMES.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S JUST ALL
THE YEARS OF SIFTING THROUGH HIS
ENDLESS BARRAGE OF ANALOGIES
OR HIS VOICE IN PLACE OF MY
OWN CONSCIENCE, BUT HE'S THERE...

...AS MUCH AT HOME
IN MY HEAD AS MY
OWN THOUGHTS.

THESE JUNGLES, RAIN FORESTS,
THEY'D ALWAYS SEEM TO REMIND
ME OF HIM, ITS SERENITY,
SOMEHOW, MATCHED HIS "ZEN."
I... HEAR HIM, THERE.

I FEEL LIKE I DO.
THAT I CAN...

A FULL MONTH HAS PASSED,
SINCE SENZEN AND HIS CLASS
DISAPPEARED. SHEPHERD'S
FIELD IS NOW A WASTELAND...
SEARCH CREWS HAVE TURNED
UP NOTHING... JUST MORE
ROOM FOR SPECULATION.

MY HANDS ARE TIED WITH
MY POSITION YOU AREN'T
LEFT MUCH TIME, IF ANY,
FOR SPECULATION.

THERE'S A RUMBLING
WITHIN THE RANKS.
THIS ASPEN WOMAN
IS STILL MISSING.

THE BLACK HAVE RISEN.
THERE'S TALK OF A TRAITOR.
THE WHISPER OF WAR ECHOES.

AN ANCIENT CLAN, LONG
THOUGHT DISBANDED SEEMS
TO HAVE RESURFACED. AN
ESTEEMED RANKING COUNCIL
MEMBER HAS ALSO
DISAPPEARED...

UNKNOWN TO ME THEN,
BUT I WAS ABOUT TO
HAVE THE WORST WEEK
OF MY POTENTIALLY
SHORT LIFE... TOTALLY
UNAWARE, THAT
SOMETHING TERRIBLE
EVEN HAPPENED...

...OR JUST HOW
CATASTROPHIC THINGS
ARE ABOUT TO GET.



#1
OF 3
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM
DAWN OF WAR



Fathom Created by
Michael Turner

Issue One of Three

The logo for Michael Turner's FATHOM DAWN of WAR. The word "FATHOM" is in a large, stylized, metallic font with a blue and silver gradient. Above it, "MICHAEL TURNER'S" is written in a smaller, blue, serif font. Below "FATHOM", the words "DAWN of WAR" are written in a black, serif font, with "of" in a cursive script. The entire logo is set against a blue background with a subtle, glowing effect.

J. T. KRUL, TALENT CALDWELL & MICHAEL TURNER

STORY

Talent Caldwell

pencils

SAL REGLA

links

CHRISTINA STRAIN

colors

DREAMER DESIGN

Letters

Digital Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO, VINCE HERNANDEZ **Design and Production:** JOSH REED, MARK KOSLAN, PETER STINGERWALE **Lettering and Design by:** DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ADVERTISING

Manager: MICHAEL TURNER President: FRANK MASTROMAURE Vice President: PETER STEIGERWALD Editor-in-Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ Editorial Assistant: JOSE REYES
Marketing Assistant: STEPHANIE MATSON Production Assistant: CHAE RIGGS AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

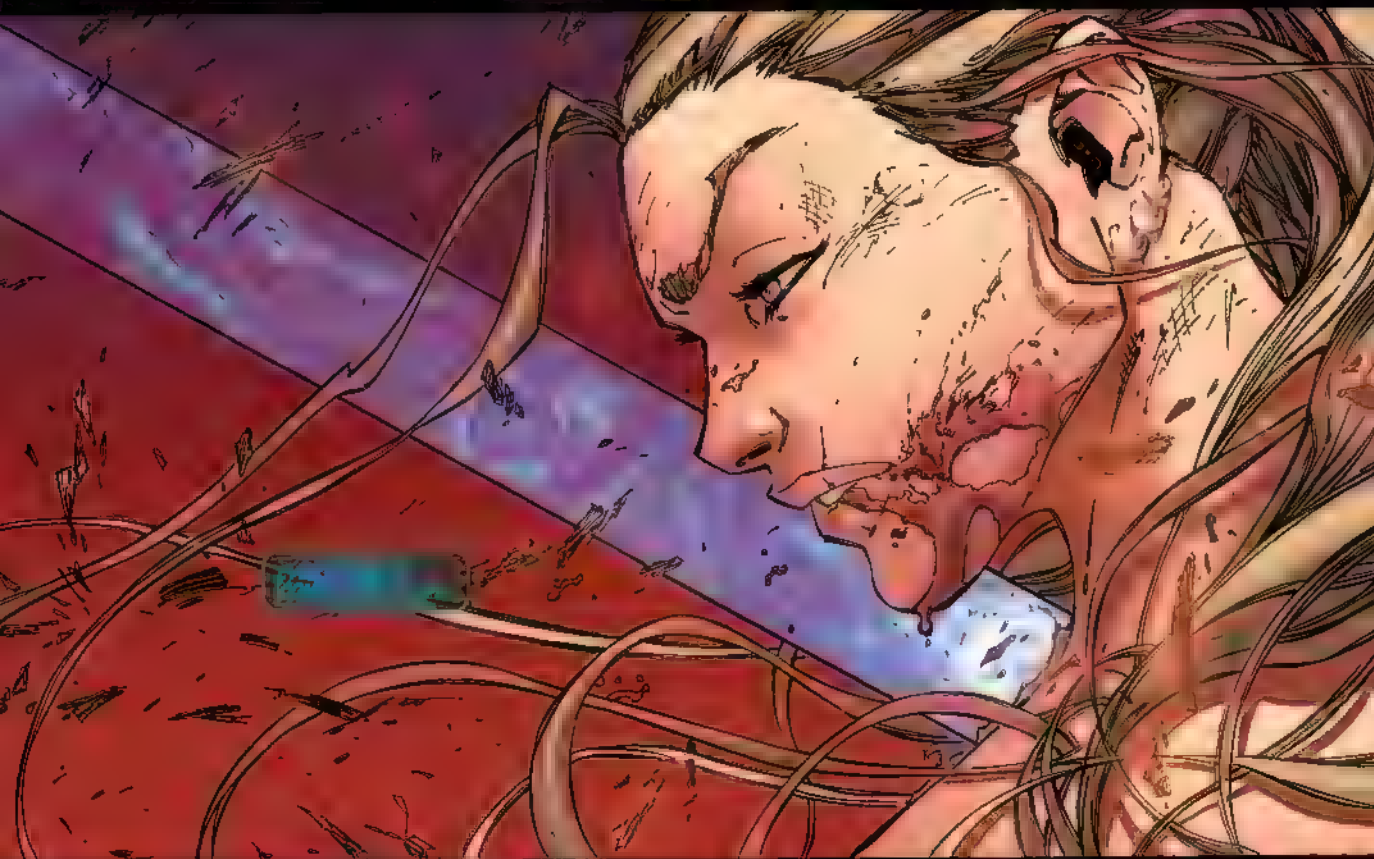
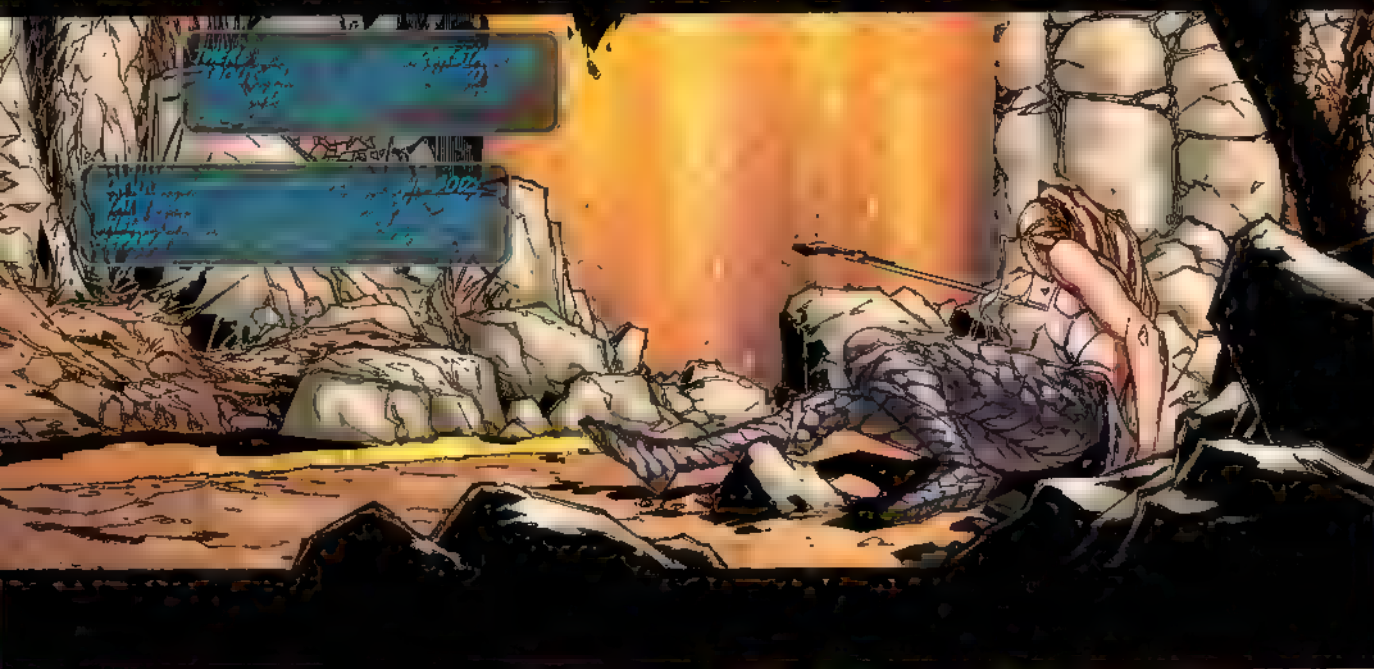
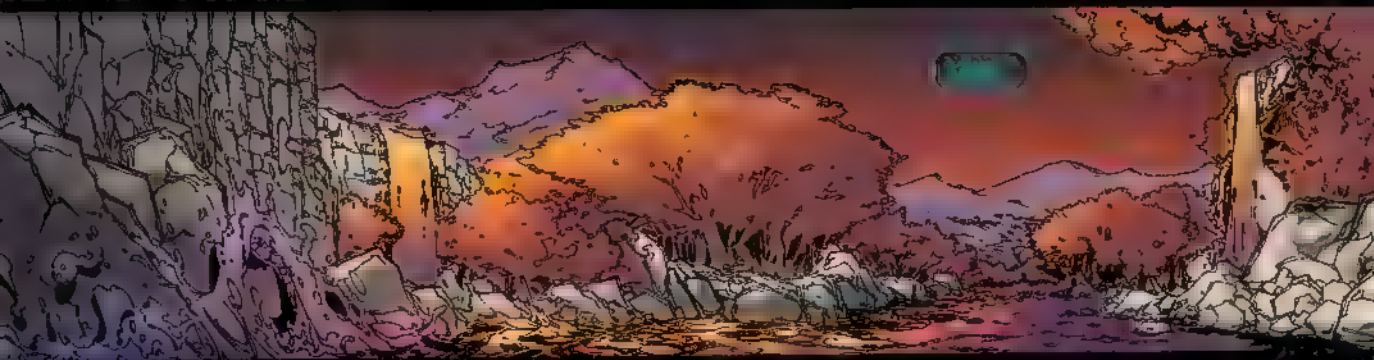
MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™: DAWN OF WAR Vol. 1 Issue 1

JANUARY 2011 DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen-MLT, Inc., Office of Publication, 5555 Green Valley Circle, Suite 100, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen-MLT logo is a registered trademark of Aspen-MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Fathom™ and the Fathom logo are the trademarks of Aspen-MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2011 Aspen-MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen-MLT, Inc.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

1-800-COMICBOOK





WHEN YOUR
PARENTS WERE LOST TO
YOU IN THE DESTRUCTION OF
MARIELLE, I BECAME A PART OF
YOUR LIFE. AND THOUGH YOU ARE
MY BEST PUPIL, YOU ARE ALSO
A DAUGHTER TO ME.

I WANT YOU
TO HAVE THIS.

I WILL
CHERISH IT
ALWAYS.

THANK YOU,
SENZEN.

WEAR IT AND
KNOW THAT I WILL
ALWAYS BE THERE
FOR YOU.

CASQUE...

ONE DAY EARLIER.

IT WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING WHEN THE COUNCIL ASSIGNED US TO TRACK DOWN THE MISSING COUNCILMAN. MARQUESES HAS A RATHER COMPLEX OPINION, ALWAYS AT ODDS WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS.

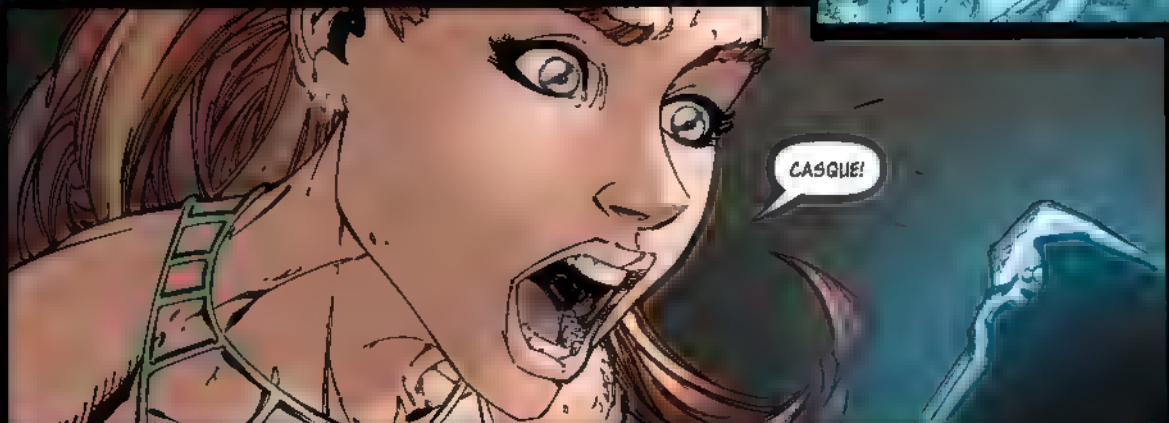
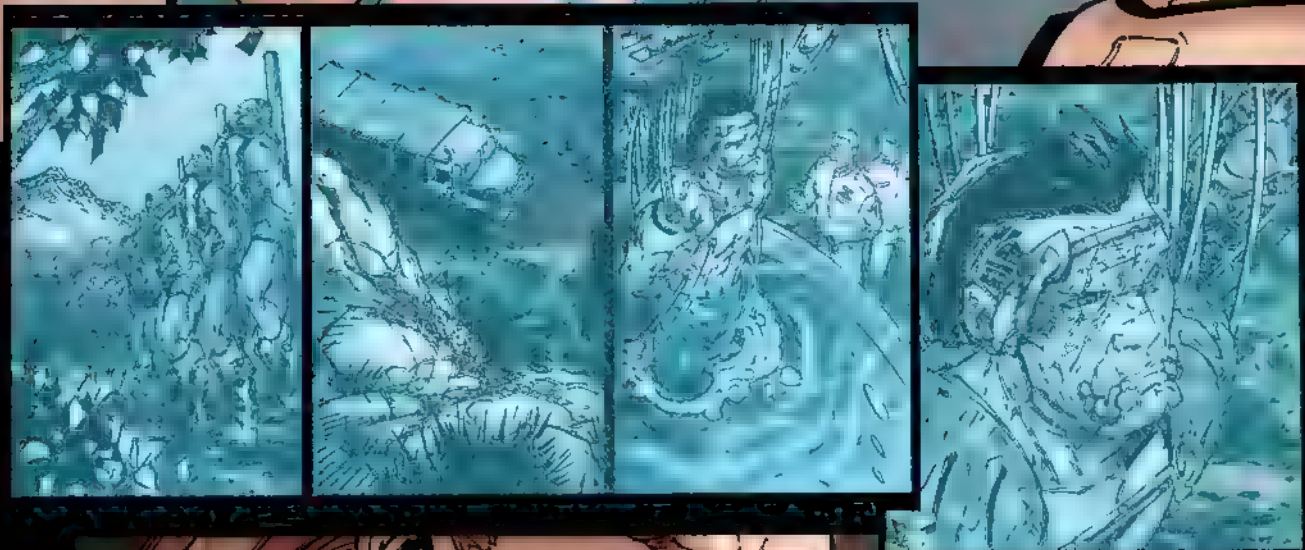
HE WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THE COUNCIL'S LONG ADOPTED STRATEGY OF SHROUDING OUR VERY EXISTENCE IN SECRECY. INSTEAD, MARQUESES PREFERRED A MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE AGAINST THE HUMANS ON THE ISLAND.

I FIGURED THE COUNCIL WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE HIM GONE, BUT I WASN'T GOING TO COMPLAIN. FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE ALLOWED ME TO PURSUE MY OWN ENDEAVORS... FINDING CASQUE AND THE OTHER ISLANDER SOLDIERS LAST SEEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD MORE THAN A MONTH AGO.

TOGETHER WITH BRANDE AND SIPHON, WE SWAM IN THE PARK, LOOKING FOR CLUES. IT WASN'T UNTIL WE CAME ACROSS AN OUTPOST ONCE USED BY THE SECURITY THAT WE FINALLY UNCOVERED THE INFORMATION.



BUT, THE EXHILARATION
OVER OUR DISCOVERY WAS
QUICKLY TRANSFORMED
INTO A HORROR BORN FROM
THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED



CASQUE!



LOOK AT ALL THE DIFFERENT LIFE FORMS OUT THERE. HOW IS IT THAT WE SEEM TO BE ABLE TO CO-EXIST PEACEFULLY, BUT UP THERE ON THE SURFACE THE HUMANS CANNOT STOP FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES?



I DON'T KNOW. WHY DON'T YOU TEAR YOURSELF AWAY FROM YOUR PHILOSOPHIZING AND HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS THING IS BUZZING ABOUT.



UM...I THINK I KNOW.



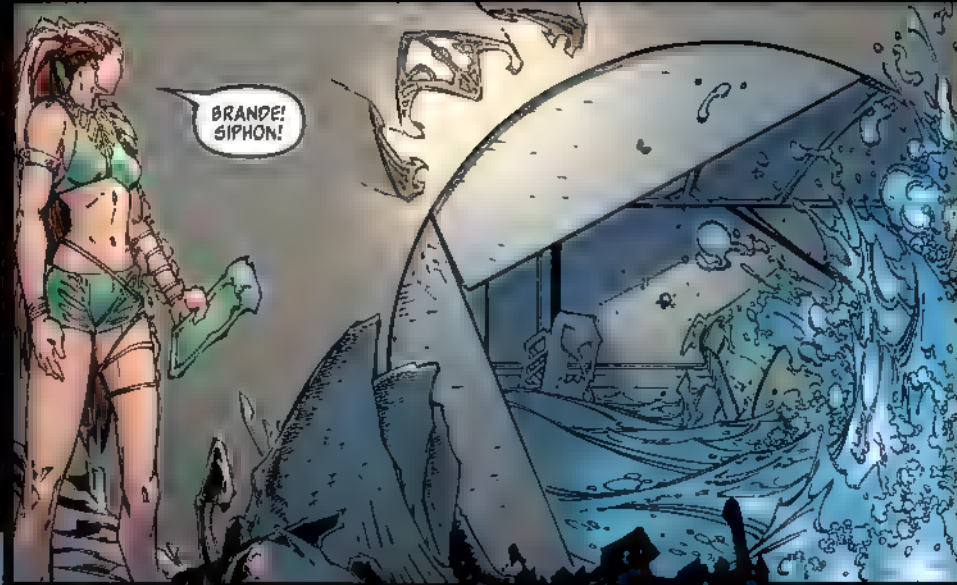
WE HAVE COMPANY.



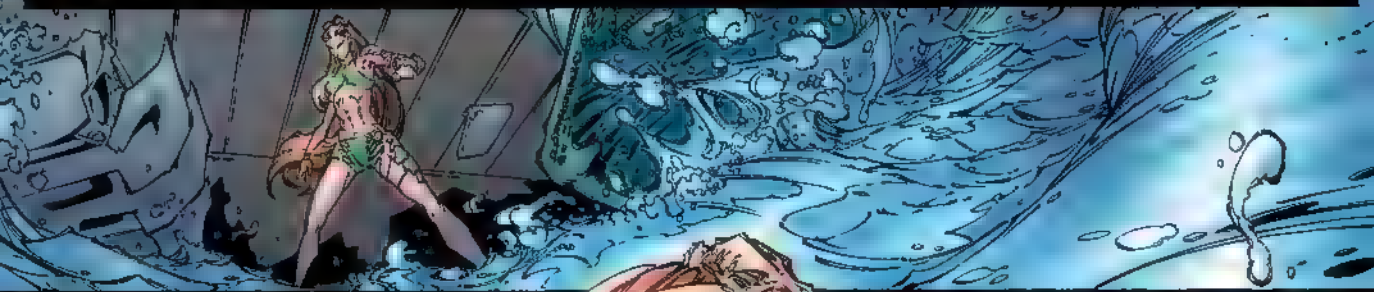
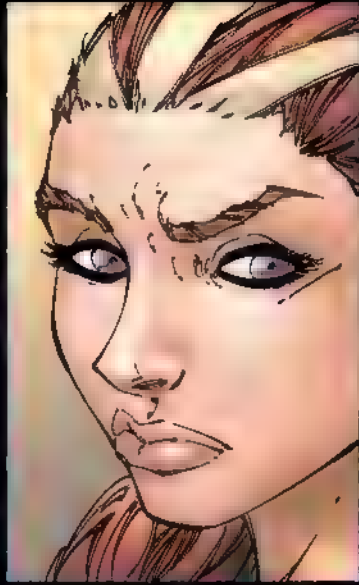
DO YOU THINK HE KNOWS ABOUT OUR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE?



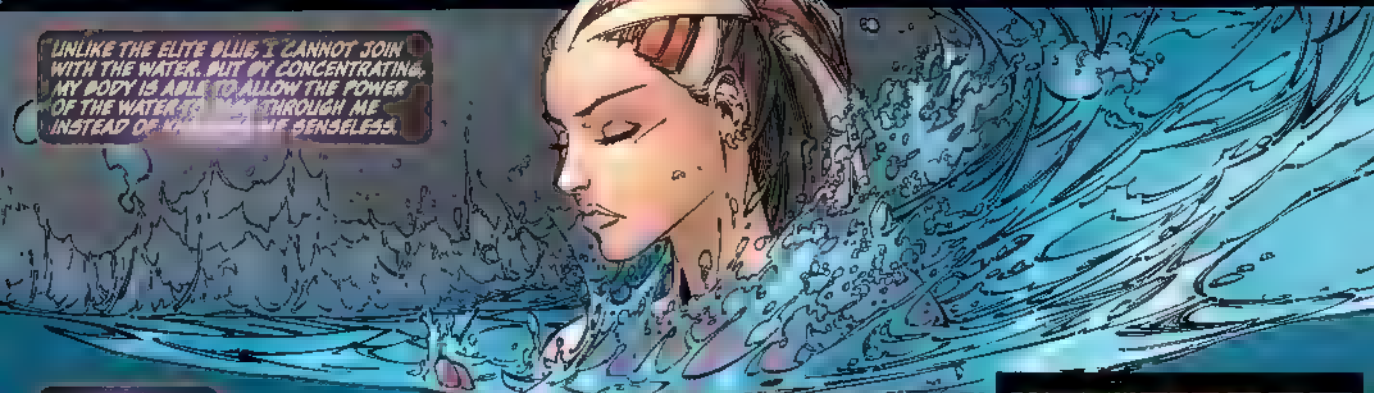
AAAAHHH!!



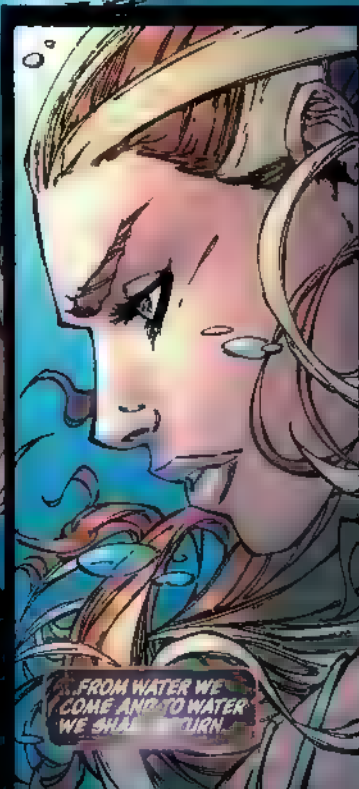
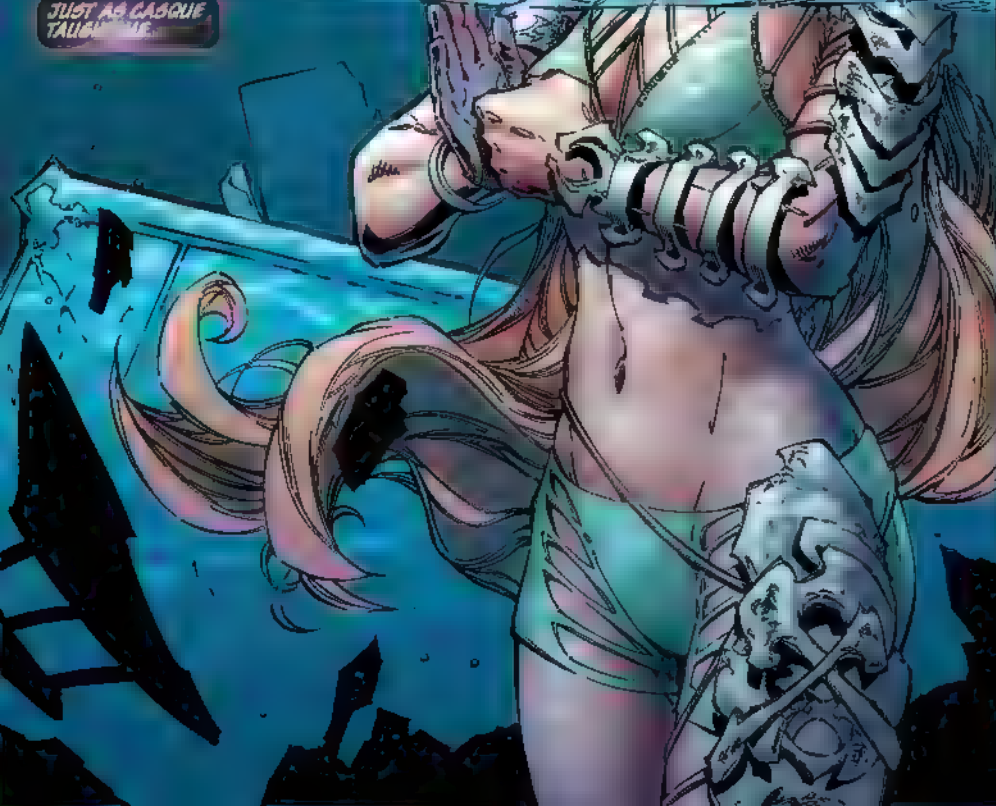
BRANDE!
SIPHON!



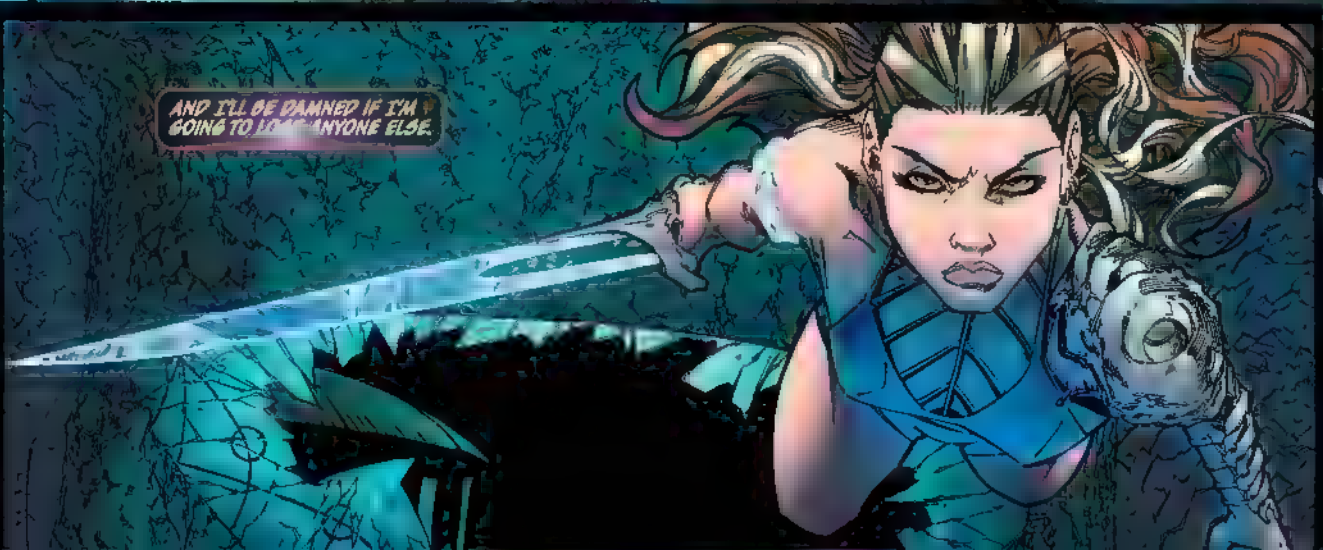
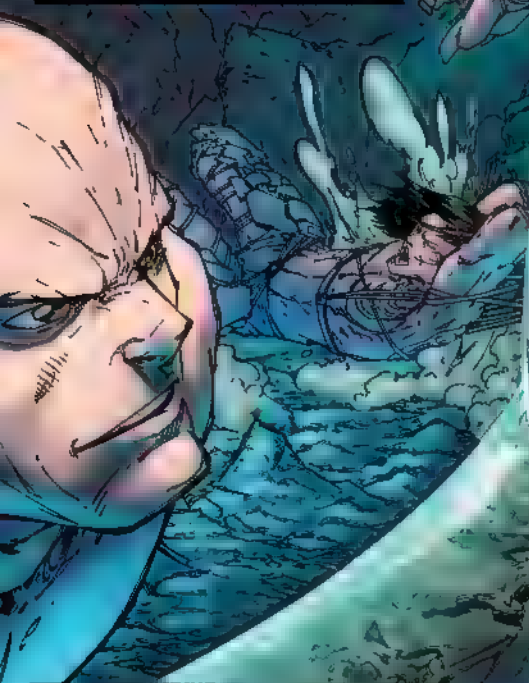
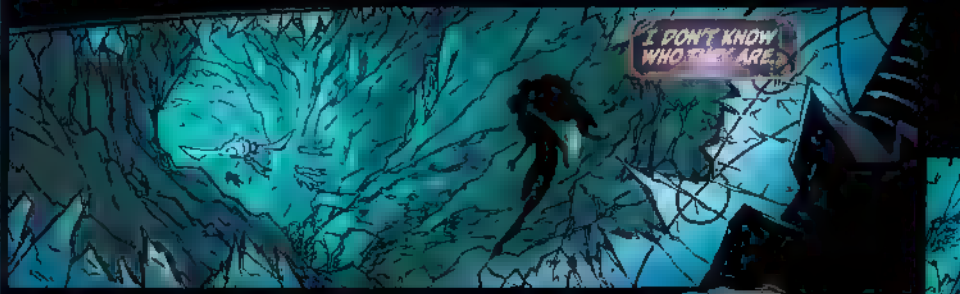
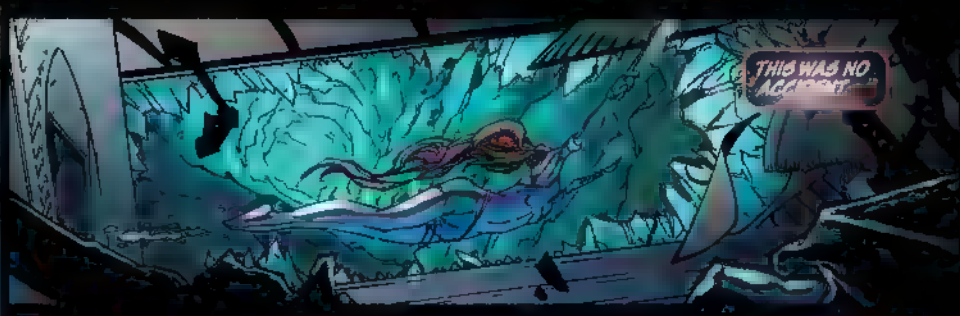
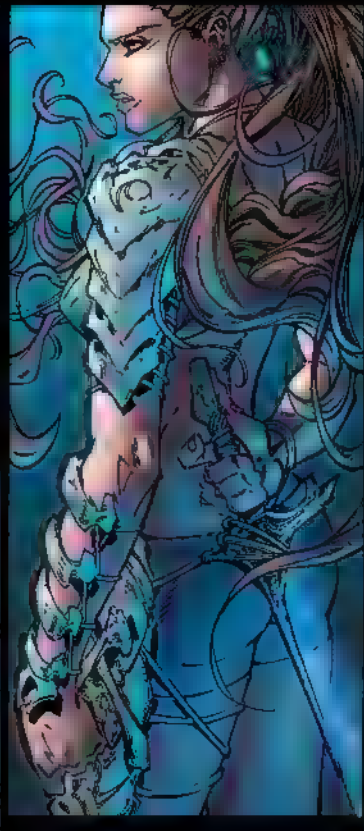
UNLIKE THE ELITE BLUE, I CANNOT JOIN
WITH THE WATER. BUT BY CONCENTRATING,
MY BODY IS ABLE TO ALLOW THE POWER
OF THE WATER TO PASS THROUGH ME
INSTEAD OF KNOWING ME SENSELESS.

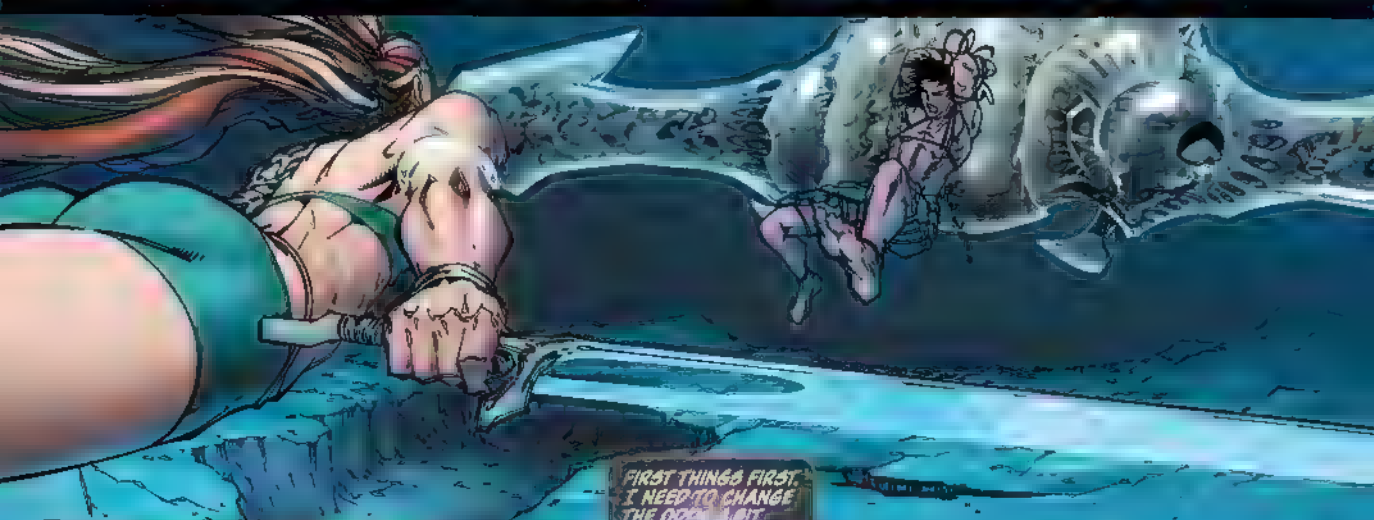
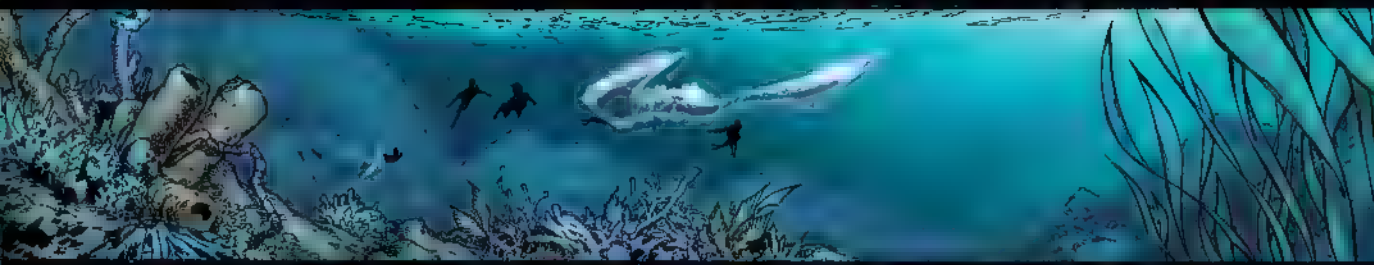


JUST AS CASQUE
TAUGHT ME.

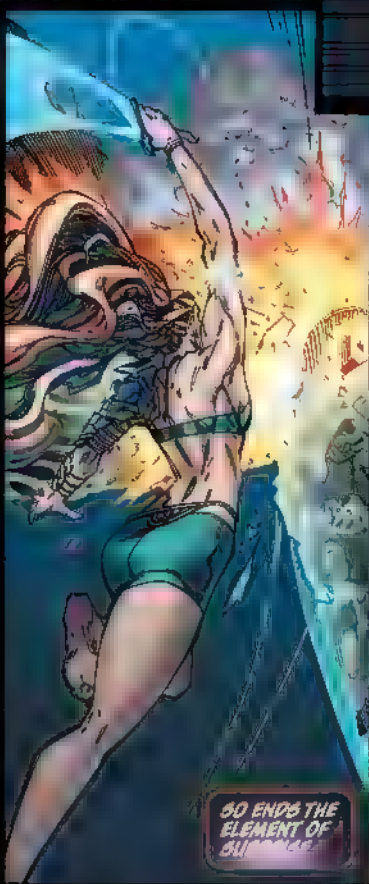
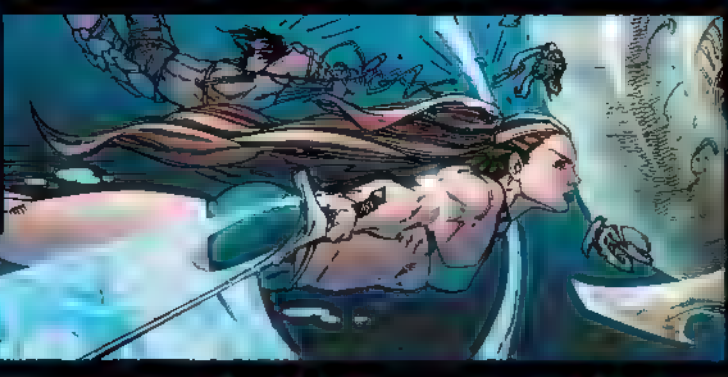


FROM WATER WE
COME AND TO WATER
WE SHALL RETURN.

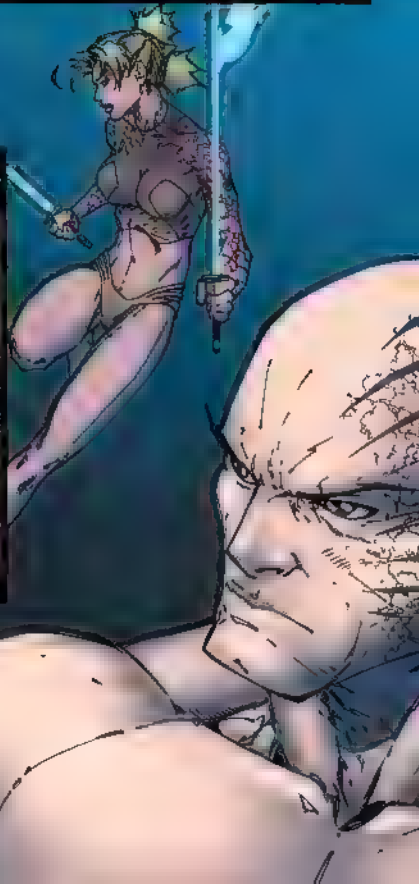
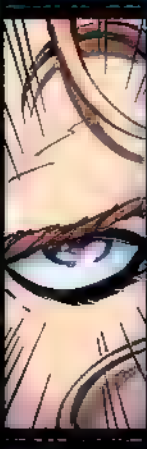
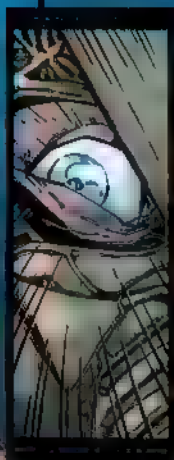




FIRST THINGS FIRST,
I NEED TO CHANGE
THE ODDS A BIT.



SO ENDS THE
ELEMENT OF
SURPRISE.





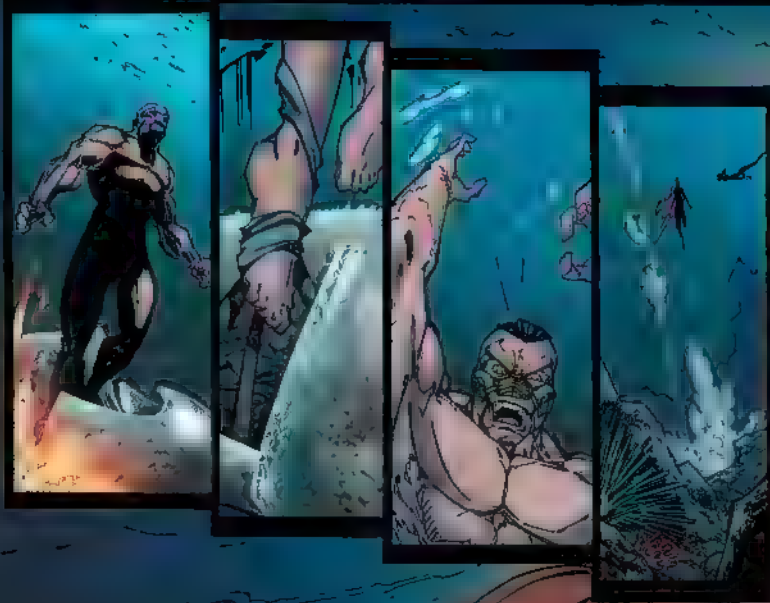
ONCE SIPHON IS FREE, HE'LL
KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHICH WILL ALLOW ME
TO CONCENTRATE ON
PRETTY MUCH DOWN THERE.

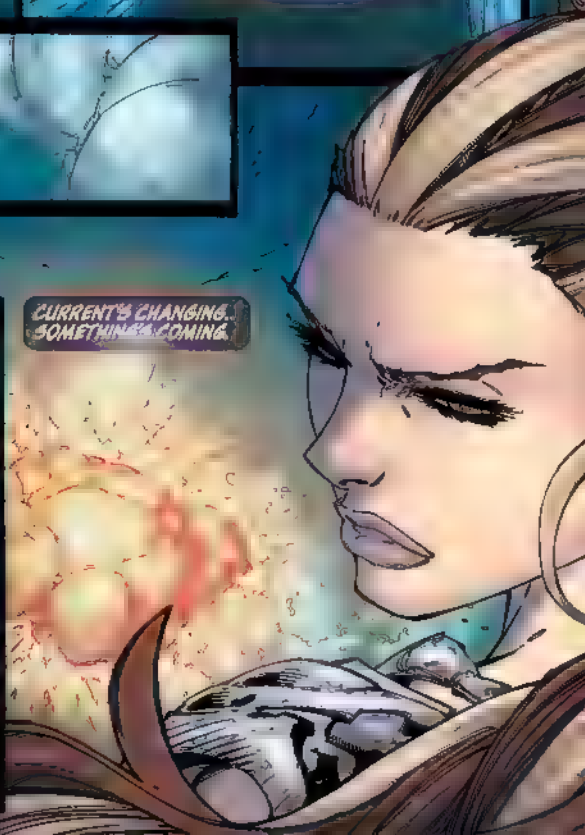


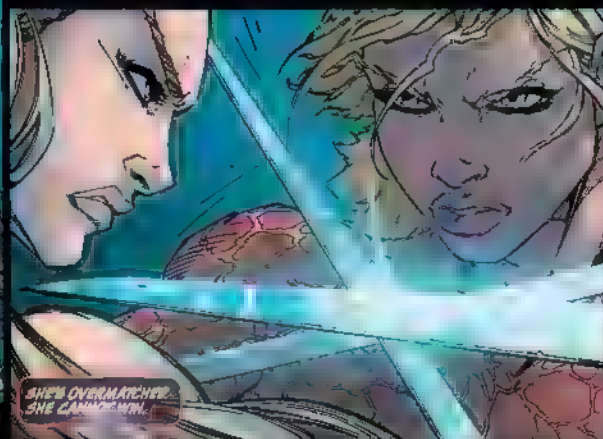
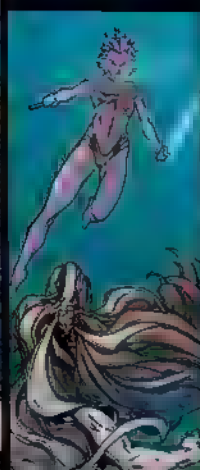
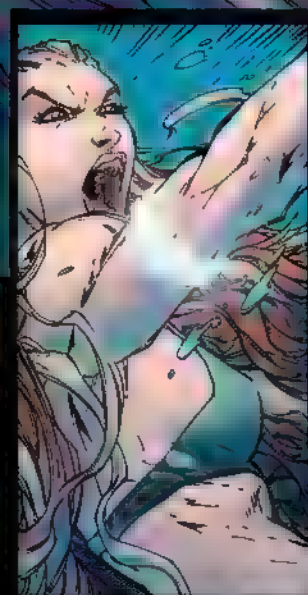
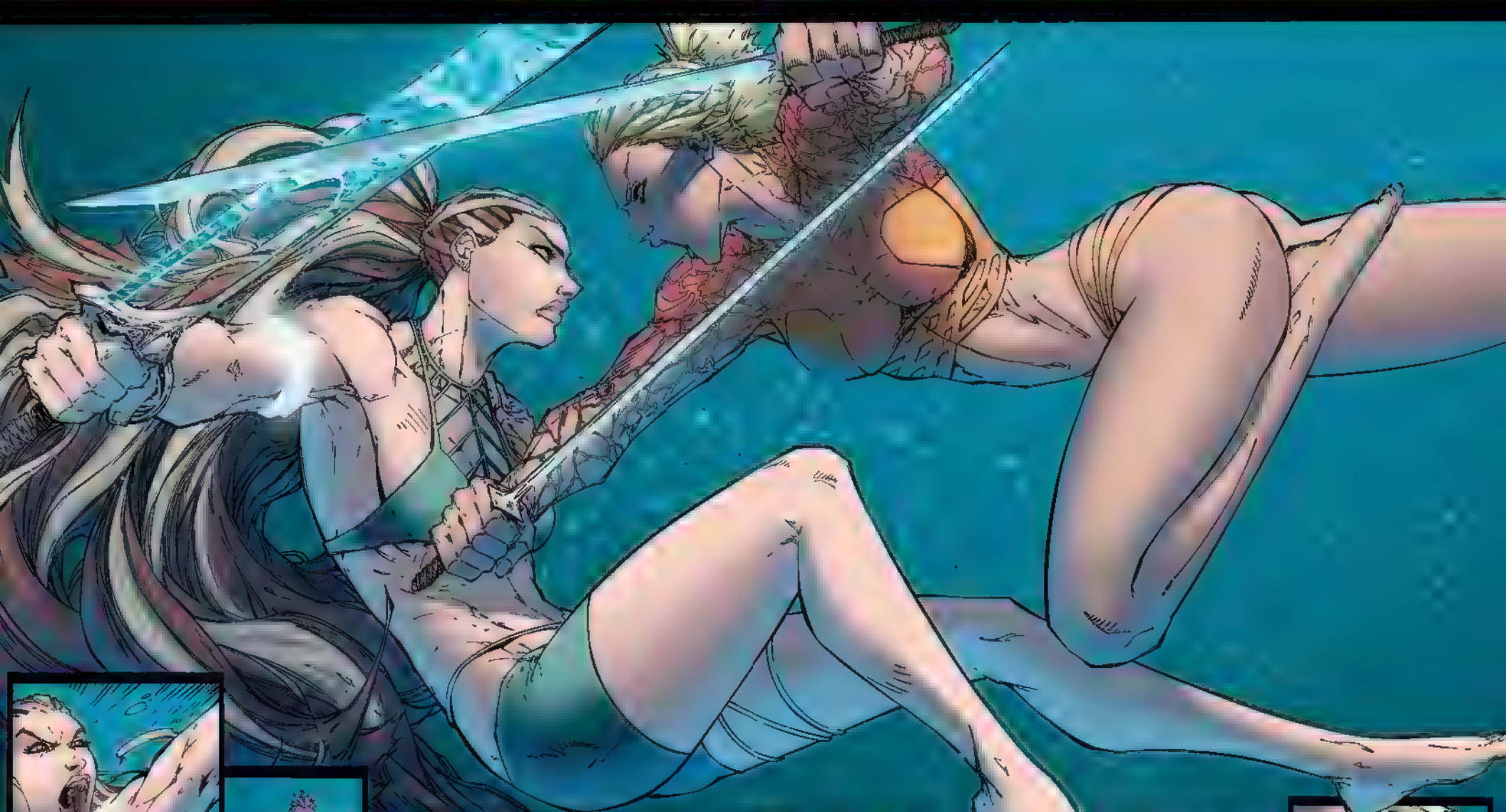
WHAT SOME FAIL TO EVER
UNDERSTAND ABOUT POWER.

...IS THE FACT THAT IT
CAN ALWAYS BE TURNED
AGAINST THEM.

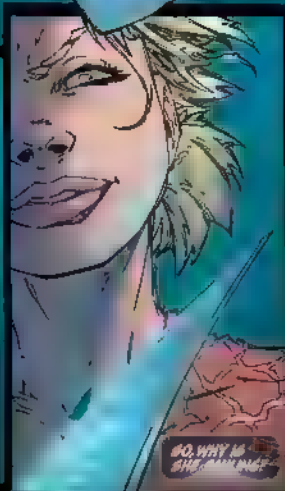
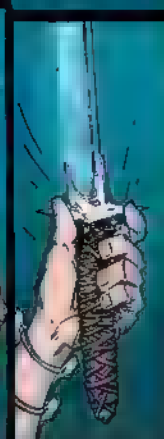
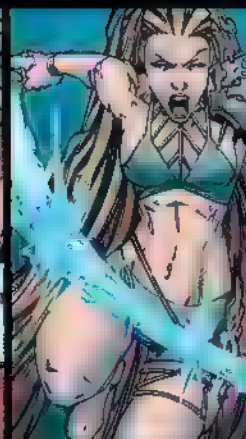


CURRENT'S CHANGING.
SOMETHING'S COMING.

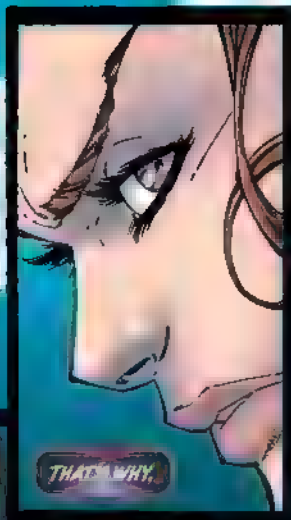
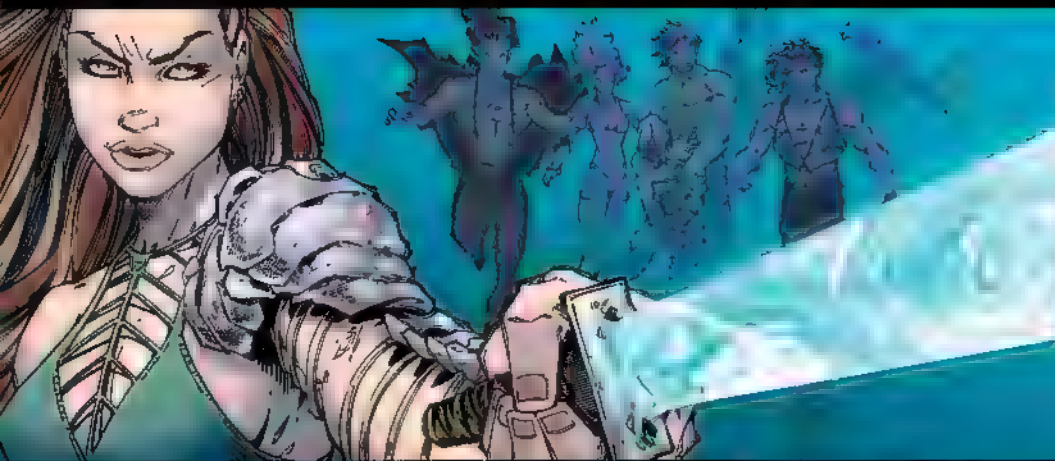




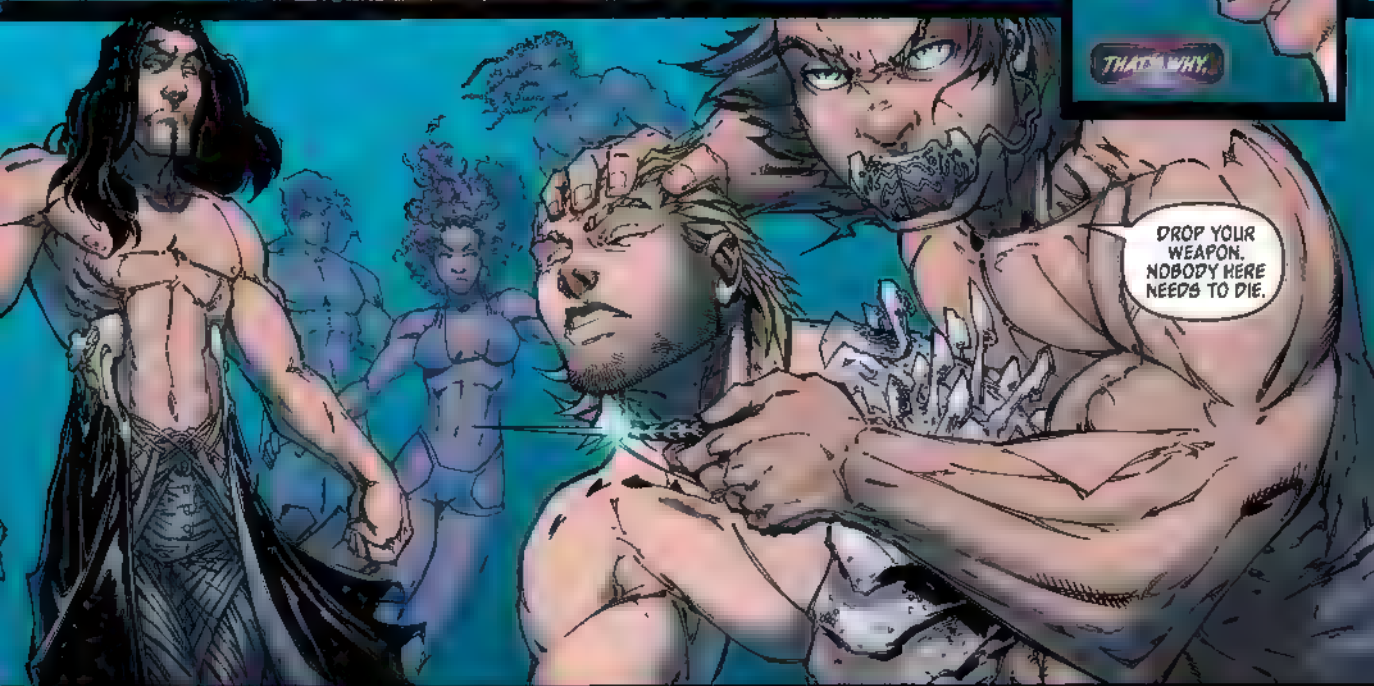
SHE'S OVERMATCHED.
SHE CAN'T WIN.



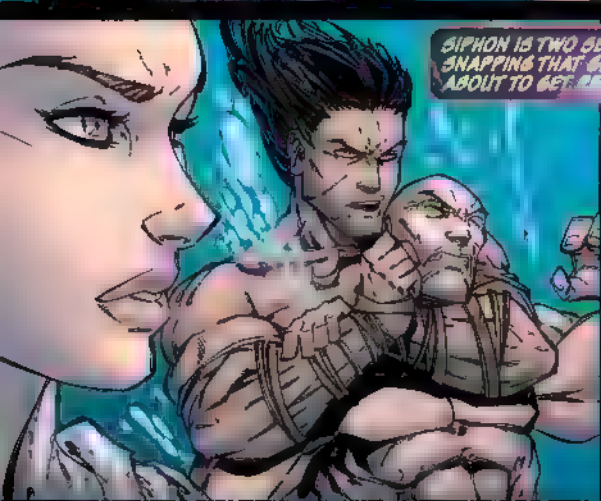
SO WHY IS
SHE RUNNING?



THAT'S WHY.



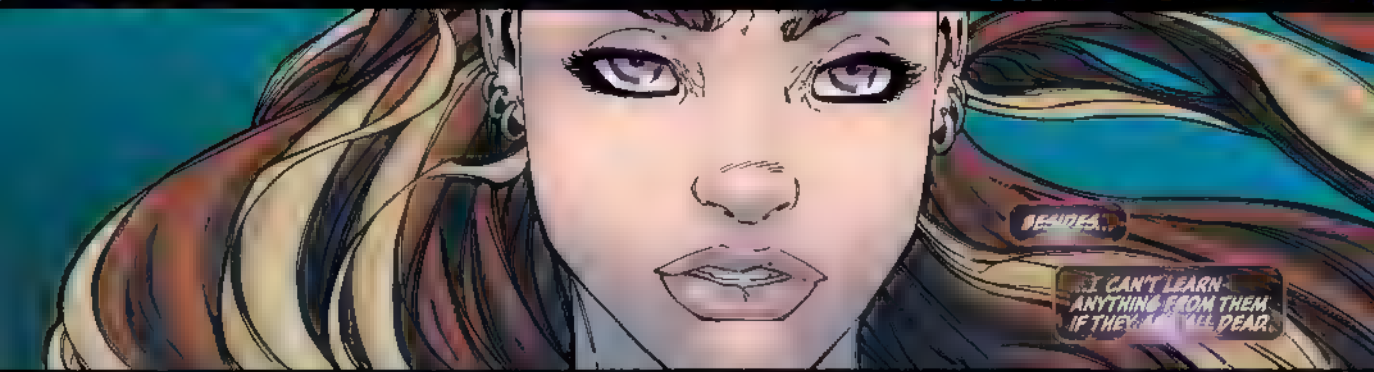
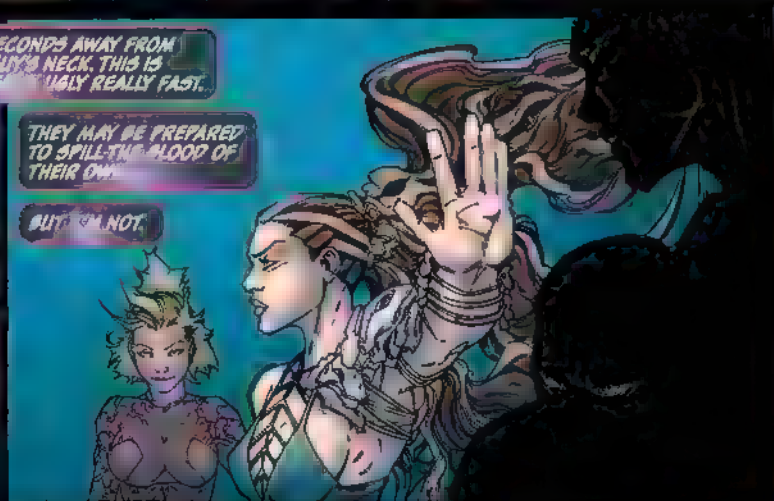
DROP YOUR
WEAPON.
NOBODY HERE
NEEDS TO DIE.



SIPHON IS TWO SECONDS AWAY FROM
SNAPPING THAT GUY'S NECK. THIS IS
ABOUT TO GET REALLY REALLY FAST.

THEY MAY BE PREPARED
TO SPILL THE BLOOD OF
THEIR OWN.

BUT, OH NOT.



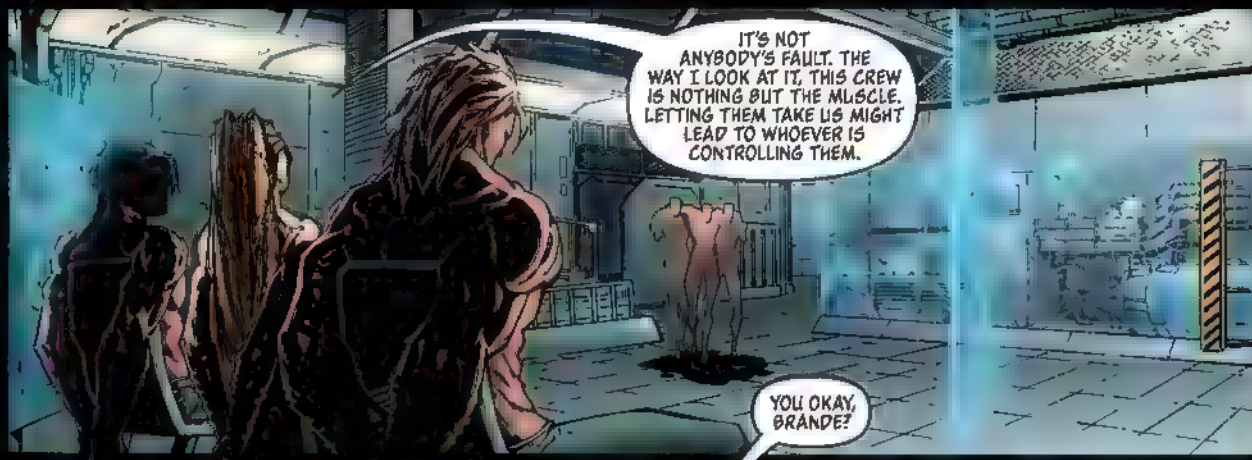
BECAUSE...

I CAN'T LEARN
ANYTHING FROM THEM
IF THEY ALL DEAR.



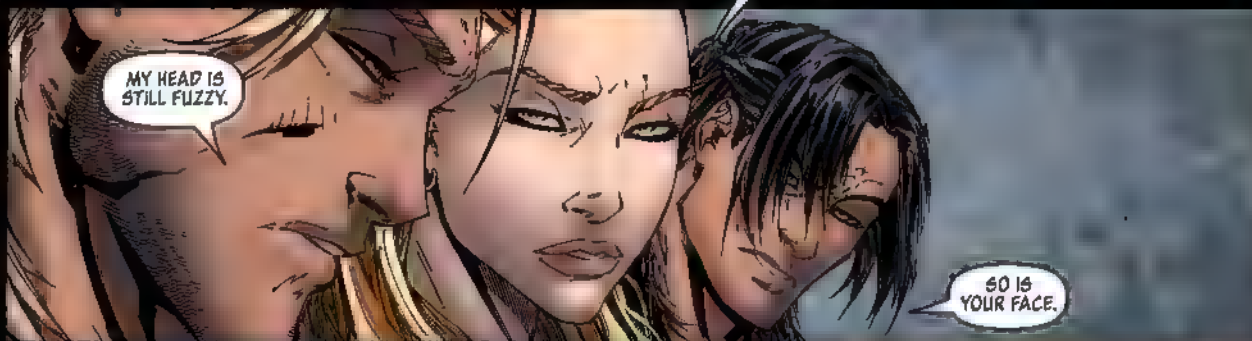
SORRY WE
LET YOU DOWN,
KIANI.

IF YOU WANT
TO BLAME
SOMEONE, BLAME
BRANDE.



IT'S NOT
ANYBODY'S FAULT. THE
WAY I LOOK AT IT, THIS CREW
IS NOTHING BUT THE MUSCLE.
LETTING THEM TAKE US MIGHT
LEAD TO WHOEVER IS
CONTROLLING THEM.

YOU OKAY,
BRANDE?

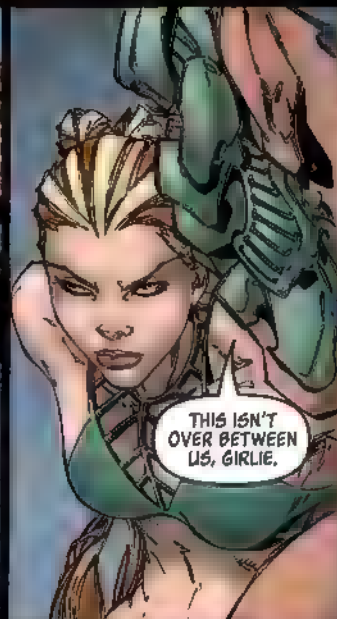


MY HEAD IS
STILL FUZZY.

SO IS
YOUR FACE.



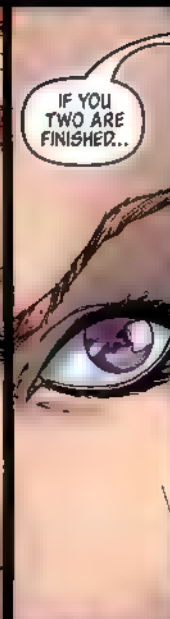
IT COULD BE
WORSE. YOU
COULD BE HIM.



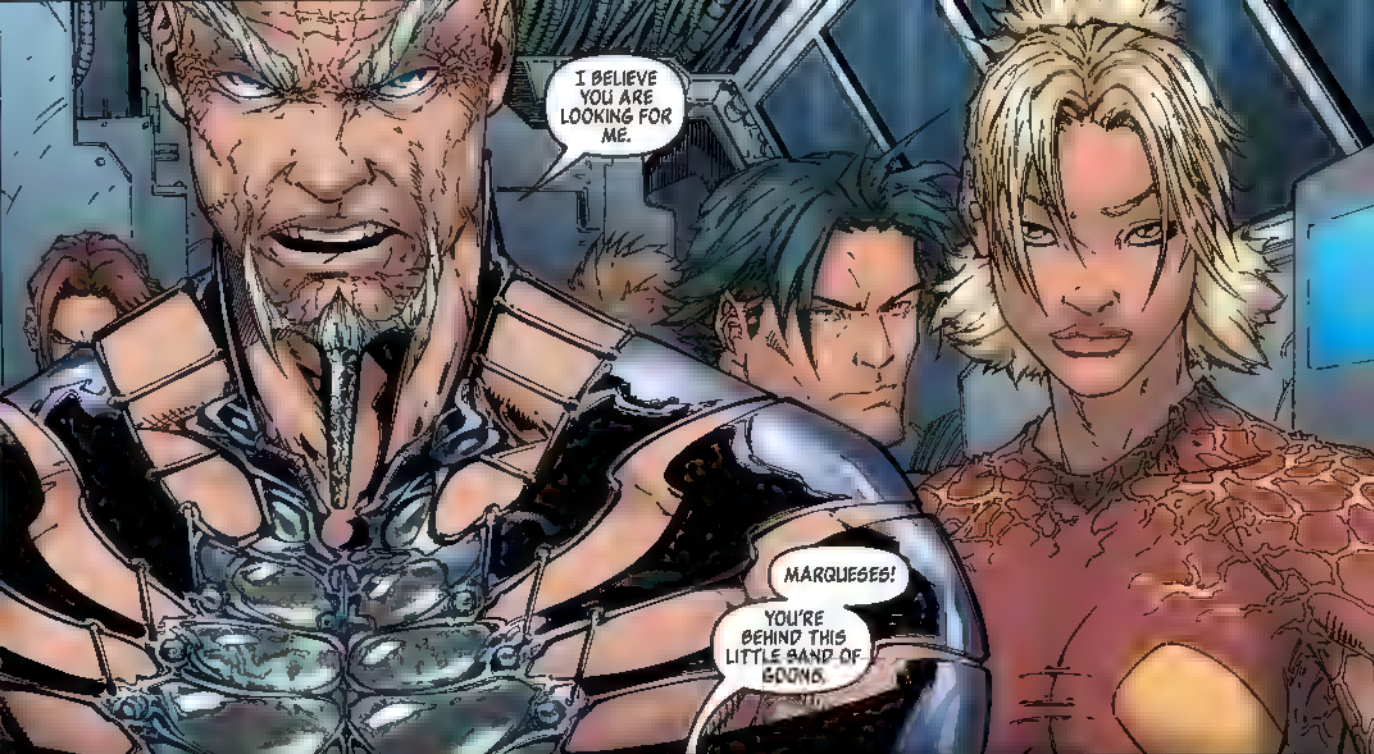
THIS ISN'T
OVER BETWEEN
US, GIRLIE.



YOU TOOK
THE WORDS
RIGHT OUT OF
MY MOUTH.



IF YOU
TWO ARE
FINISHED...



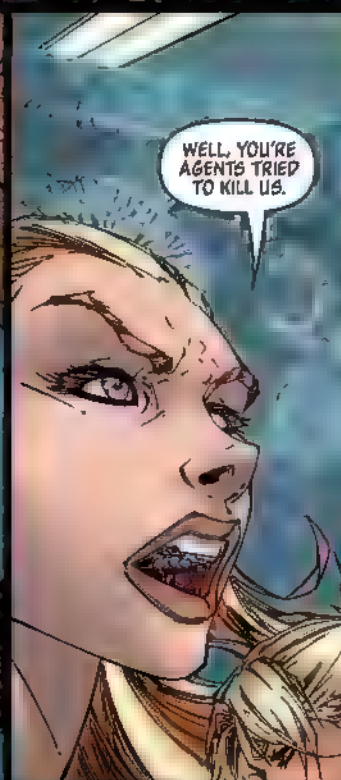
I BELIEVE
YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR
ME.

MARQUESES!

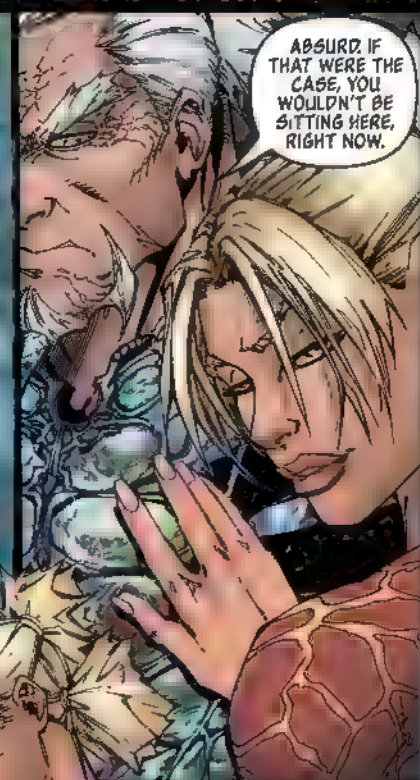
YOU'RE
BEHIND THIS
LITTLE BAND OF
GOODS.



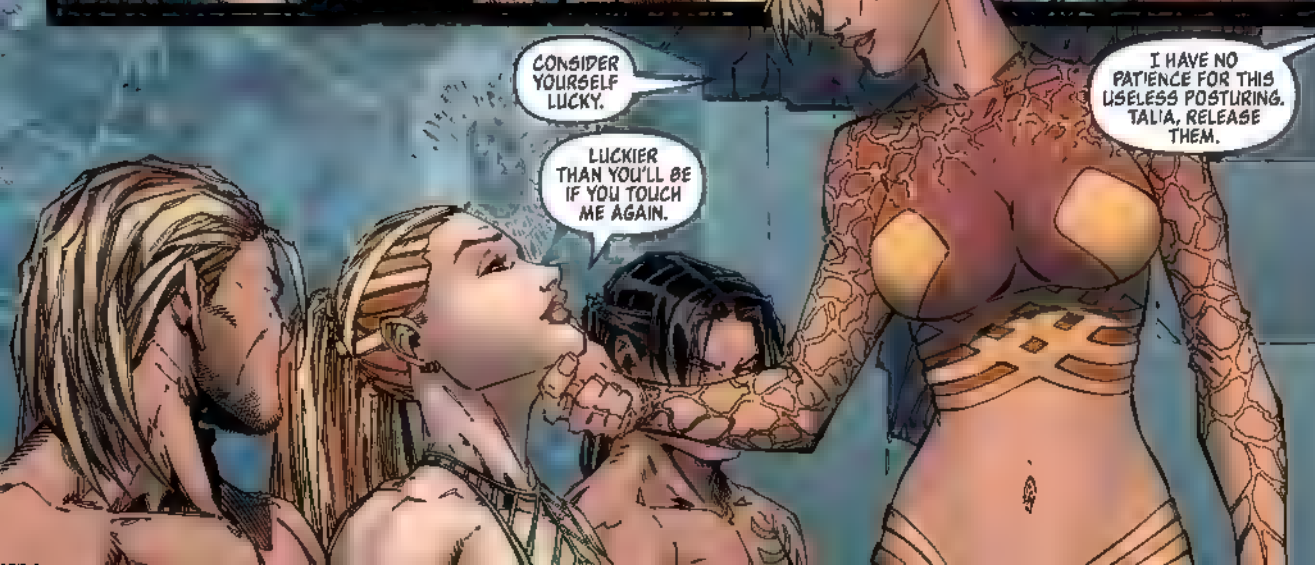
THESE ARE
SELECT AGENTS OF
CLANVALOR, THE
COUNCIL'S SPECIAL
INTELLIGENCE FORCE.
BUT THEY ANSWER
ONLY TO ME NOW.



WELL, YOU'RE
AGENTS TRIED
TO KILL US.



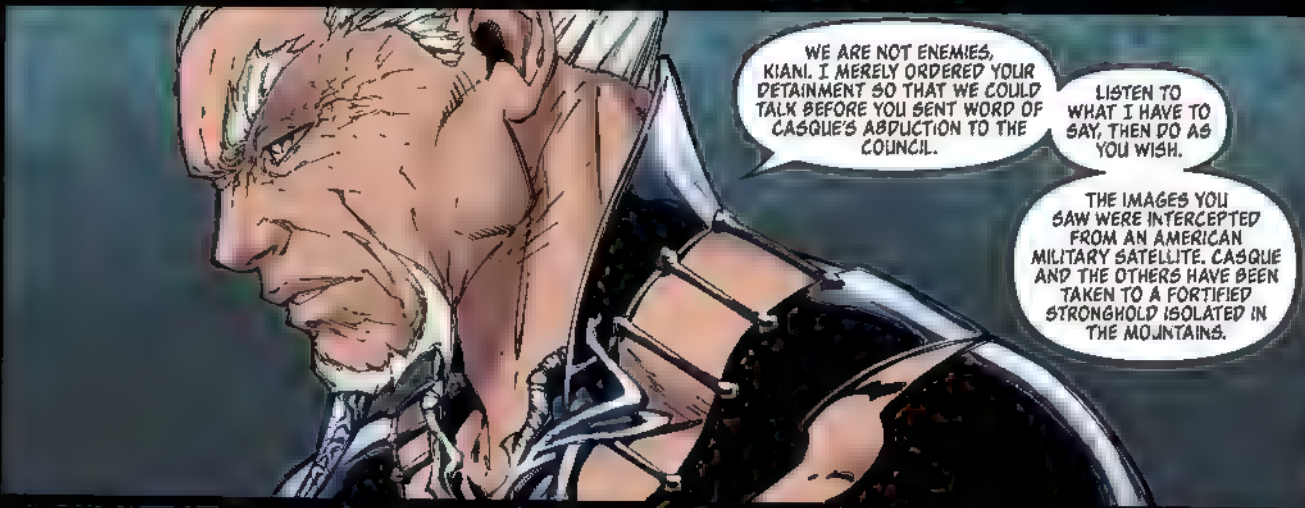
ABSDUR IF
THAT WERE THE
CASE, YOU
WOULDN'T BE
SITTING HERE,
RIGHT NOW.



CONSIDER
YOURSELF
LUCKY.

LUCKIER
THAN YOU'LL BE
IF YOU TOUCH
ME AGAIN.

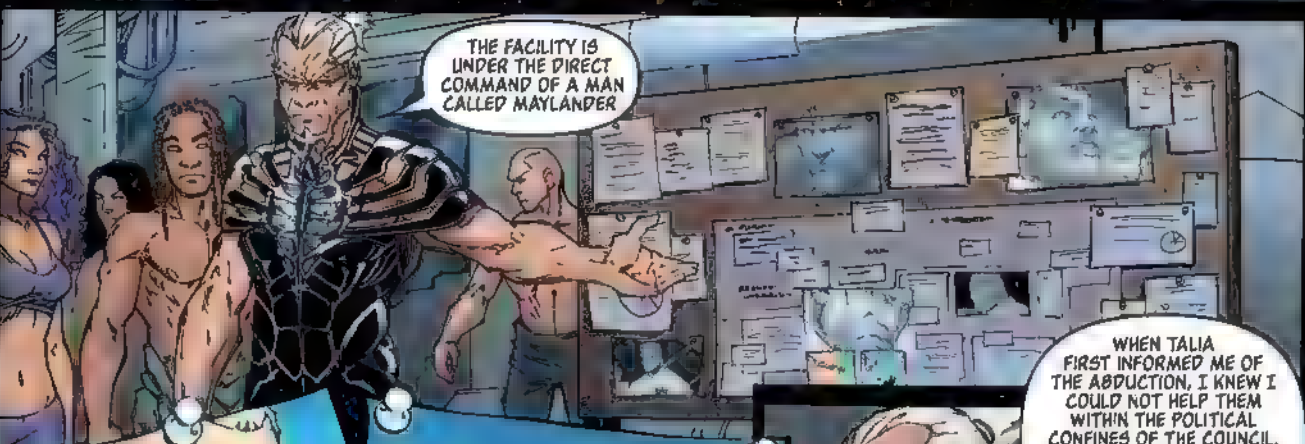
I HAVE NO
PATIENCE FOR THIS
USELESS POSTURING.
TALIA, RELEASE
THEM.



WE ARE NOT ENEMIES, KIANI. I MERELY ORDERED YOUR DETAINMENT SO THAT WE COULD TALK BEFORE YOU SENT WORD OF CASQUE'S ABDUCTION TO THE COUNCIL.

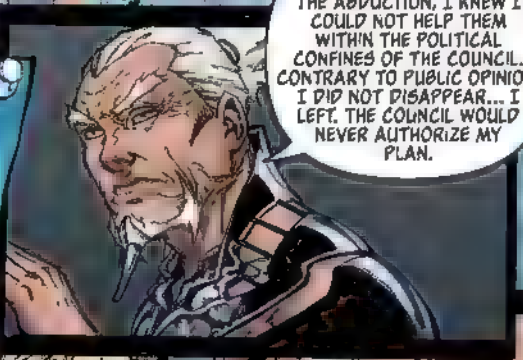
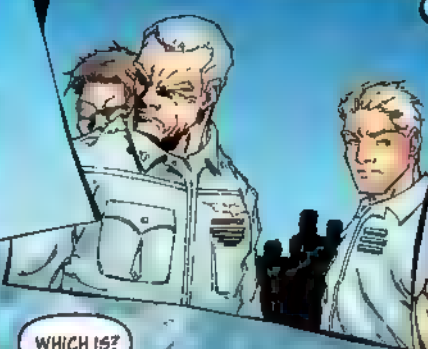
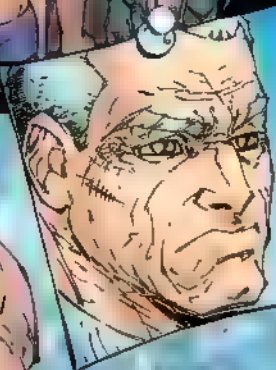
LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, THEN DO AS YOU WISH.

THE IMAGES YOU SAW WERE INTERCEPTED FROM AN AMERICAN MILITARY SATELLITE. CASQUE AND THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO A FORTIFIED STRONGHOLD ISOLATED IN THE MOUNTAINS.

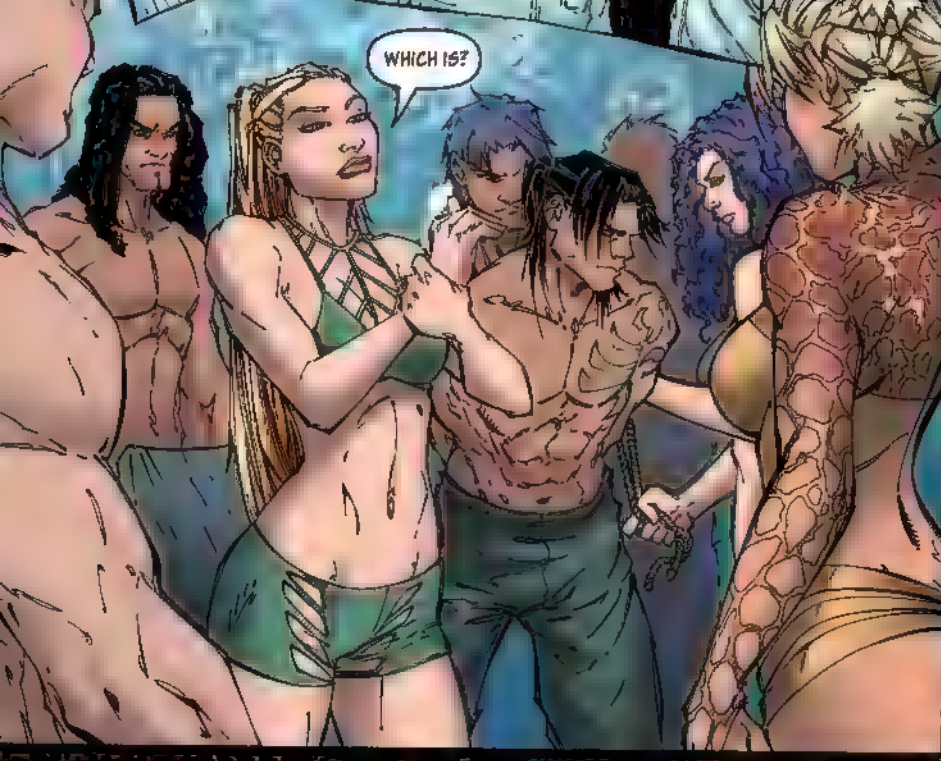


THE FACILITY IS UNDER THE DIRECT COMMAND OF A MAN CALLED MAYLANDER

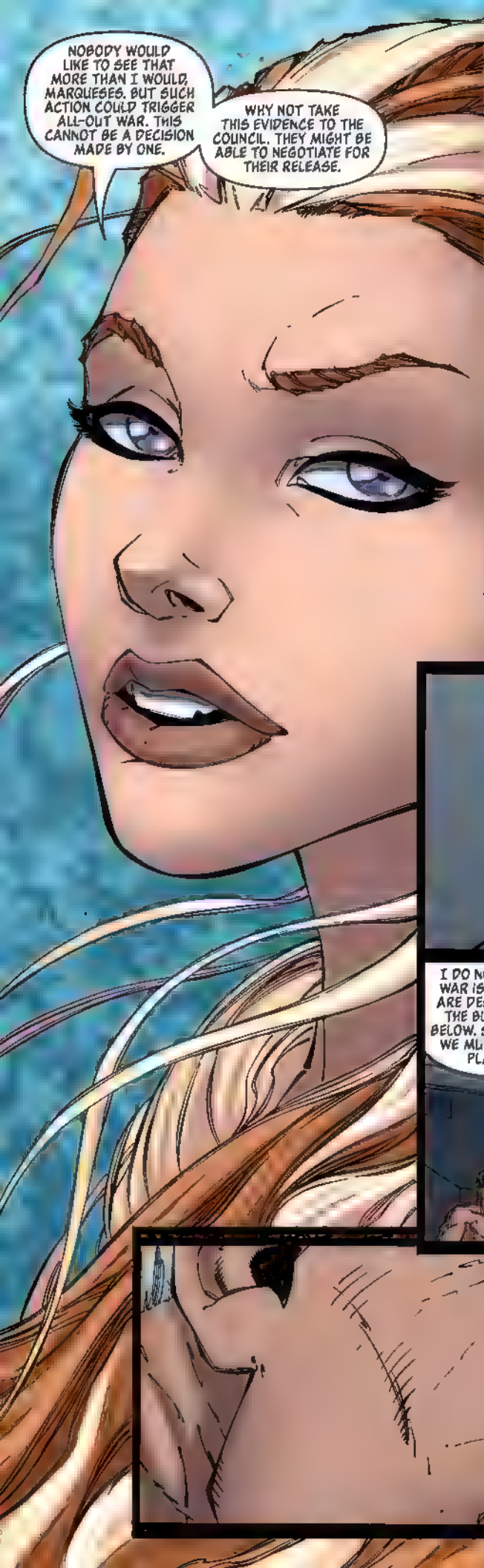
WHEN TALIA FIRST INFORMED ME OF THE ABDUCTION, I KNEW I COULD NOT HELP THEM WITHIN THE POLITICAL CONFINES OF THE COUNCIL. CONTRARY TO PUBLIC OPINION, I DID NOT DISAPPEAR... I LEFT. THE COUNCIL WOULD NEVER AUTHORIZE MY PLAN.



WHICH IS?

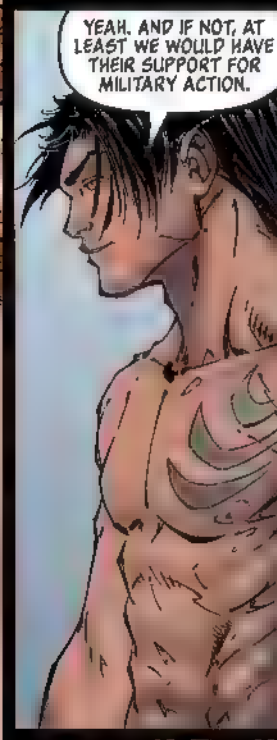


TO FREE MY BROTHERS IN CAPTIVITY AND DESTROY THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

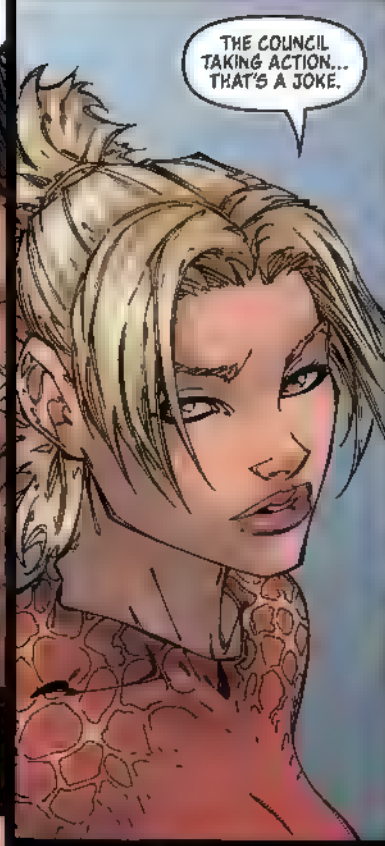


NOBODY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT MORE THAN I WOULD, MARQUESES. BUT SUCH ACTION COULD TRIGGER ALL-OUT WAR. THIS CANNOT BE A DECISION MADE BY ONE.

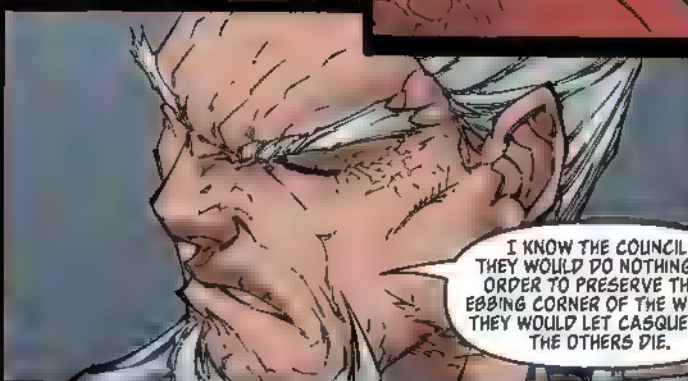
WHY NOT TAKE THIS EVIDENCE TO THE COUNCIL. THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE FOR THEIR RELEASE.



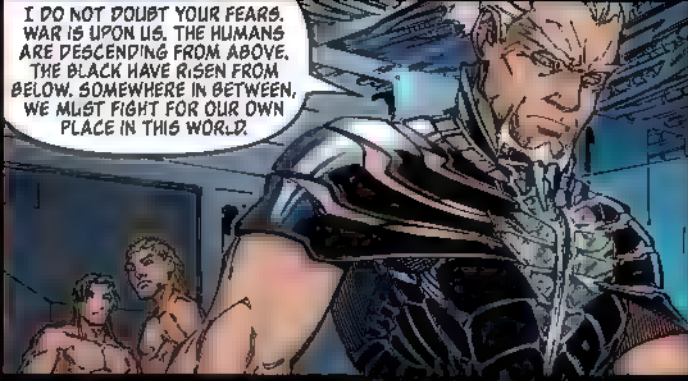
YEAH. AND IF NOT, AT LEAST WE WOULD HAVE THEIR SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ACTION.



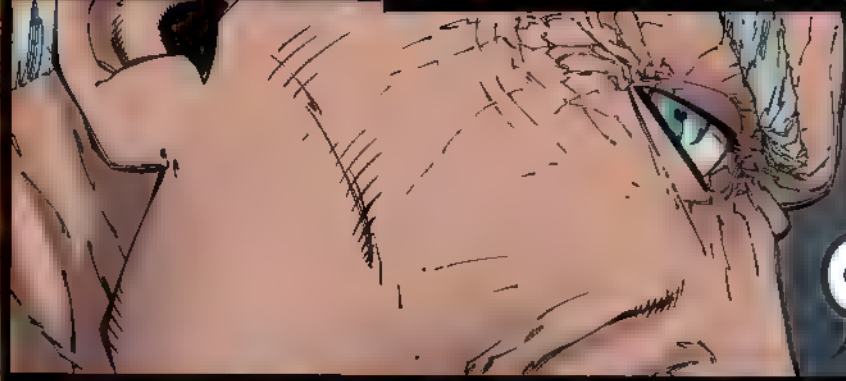
THE COUNCIL TAKING ACTION... THAT'S A JOKE.



I KNOW THE COUNCIL. THEY WOULD DO NOTHING. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR EBBING CORNER OF THE WORLD, THEY WOULD LET CASQUE AND THE OTHERS DIE.

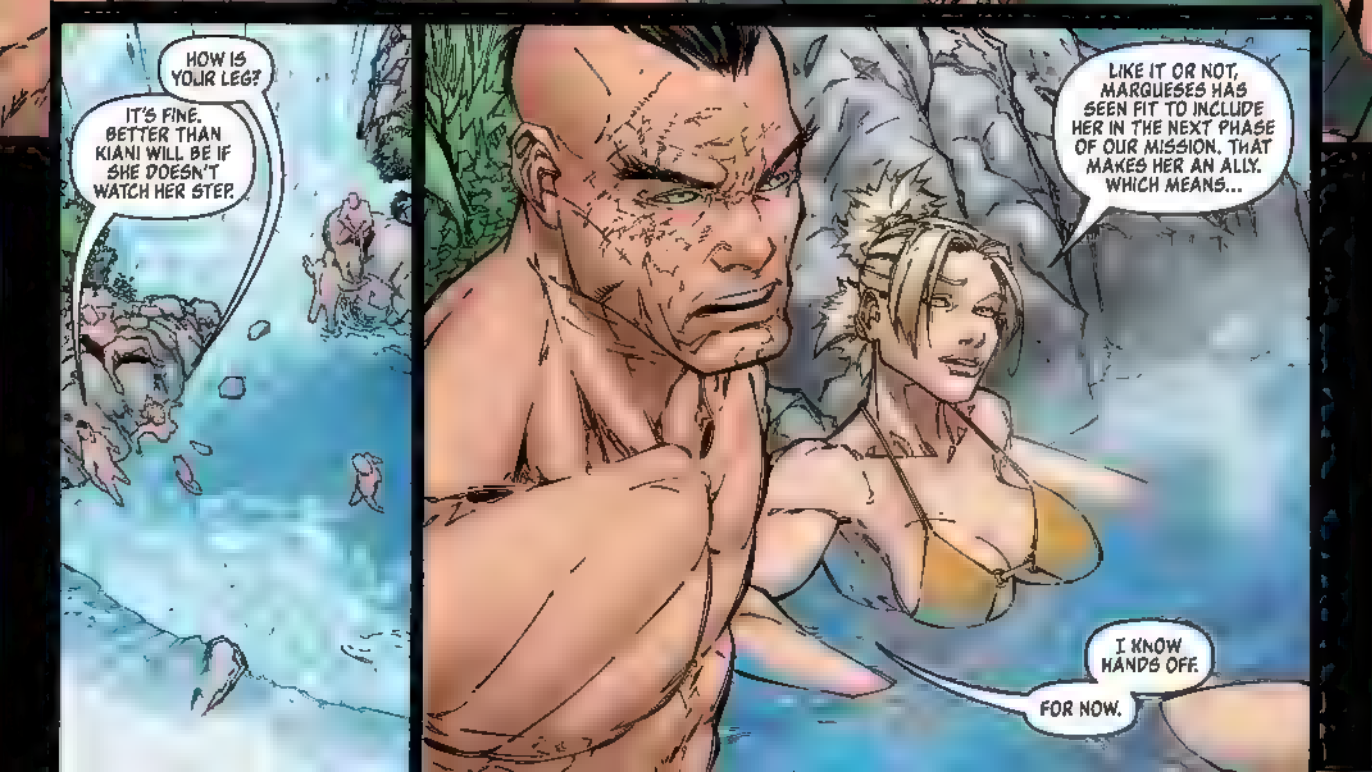


I DO NOT DOUBT YOUR FEARS. WAR IS UPON US. THE HUMANS ARE DESCENDING FROM ABOVE. THE BLACK HAVE RISEN FROM BELOW. SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN, WE MUST FIGHT FOR OUR OWN PLACE IN THIS WORLD.



I WILL NOT LOSE CASQUE TO THEM.

THE ONLY QUESTION, KIANI, IS WILL YOU?



THOUGH WE HAVE KNOWN
THE LOCATION OF THE BASE
FOR SOME TIME, WE WAITED
TO LAUNCH OUR ATTACK.

FOR IN SITUATIONS SUCH AS
THESE, IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO
SIMPLY CUT OFF THE LIMBS
OF THE OPERATION.

YOU MUST SEVER
THE HEAD.

THESE LATEST
IMAGES CONFIRM
THAT MAYLANDER HAS
RETURNED. IF WE ARE
GOING TO STRIKE,
NOW IS THE TIME.

WHERE ARE
CASQUE AND
THE OTHERS?

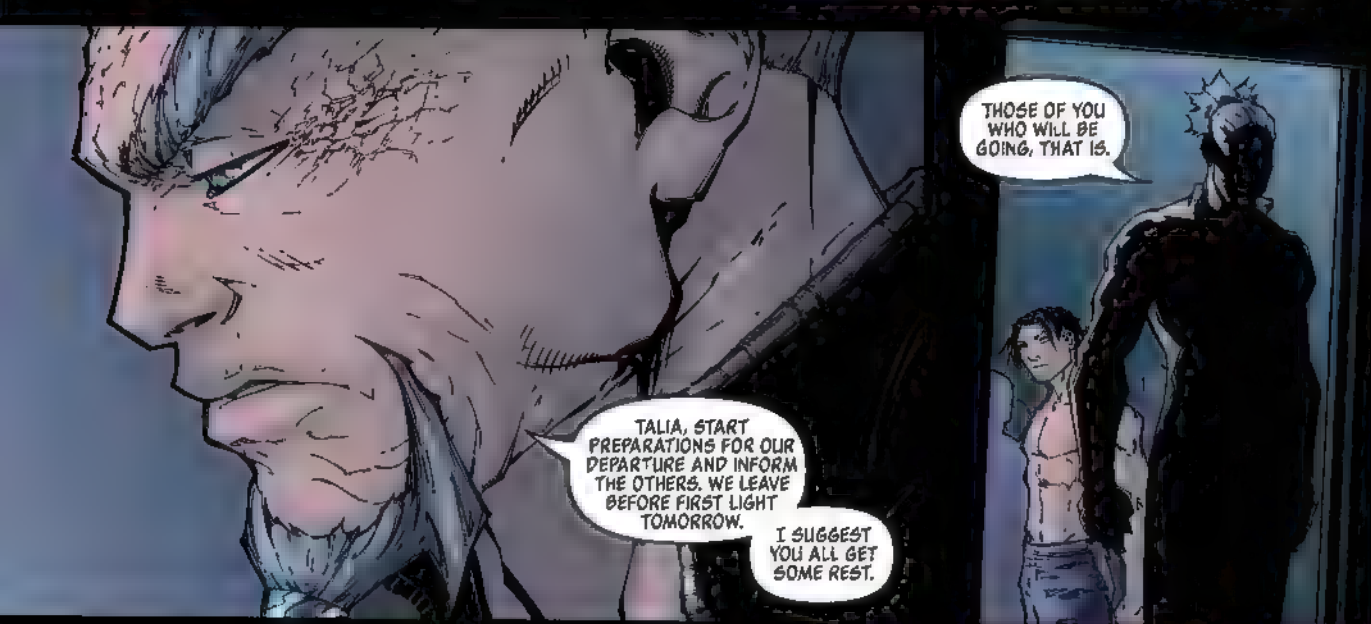
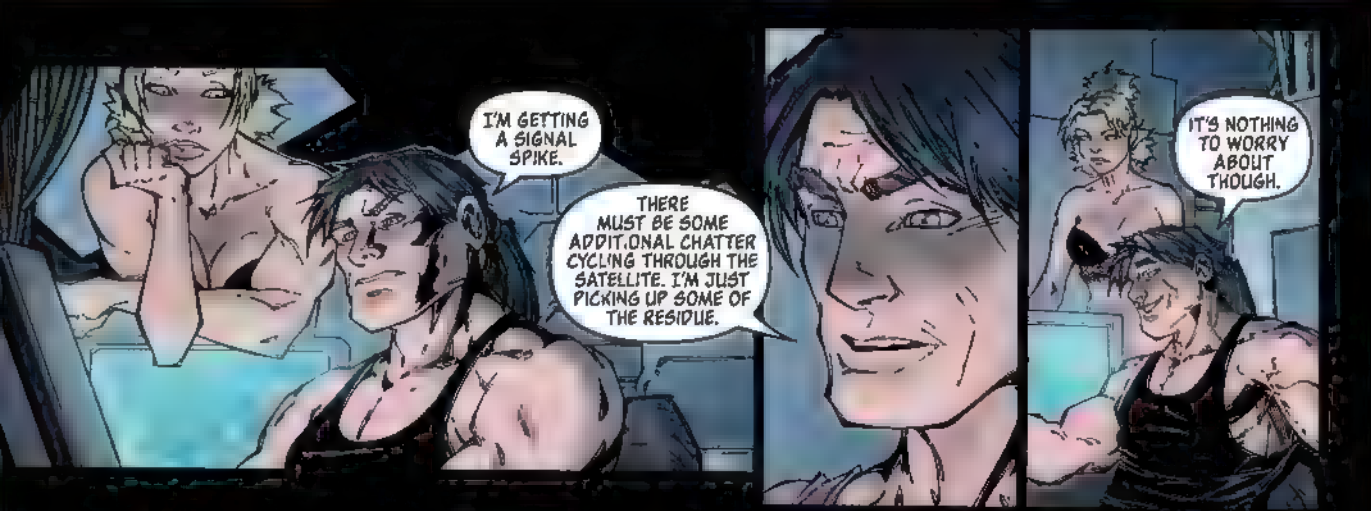
WE BELIEVE
THEY ARE ON LEVEL
THREE, BUT THE
CAMERAS ON THE LOWER
LEVELS MUST BE
ISOLATED ONTO A
CLOSED-CIRCUIT.

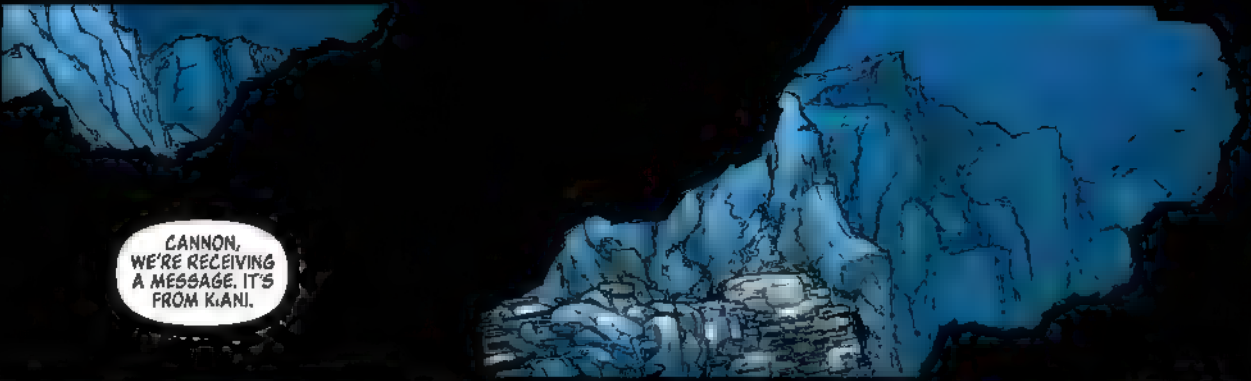
DO WE EVEN
KNOW THAT THEY
ARE ALL STILL
ALIVE?

THE ENERGY
SIGNATURE FROM
THAT LEVEL HAS
REMAINED CONSTANT,
WHICH WOULD INDICATE
THAT THEY ARE.

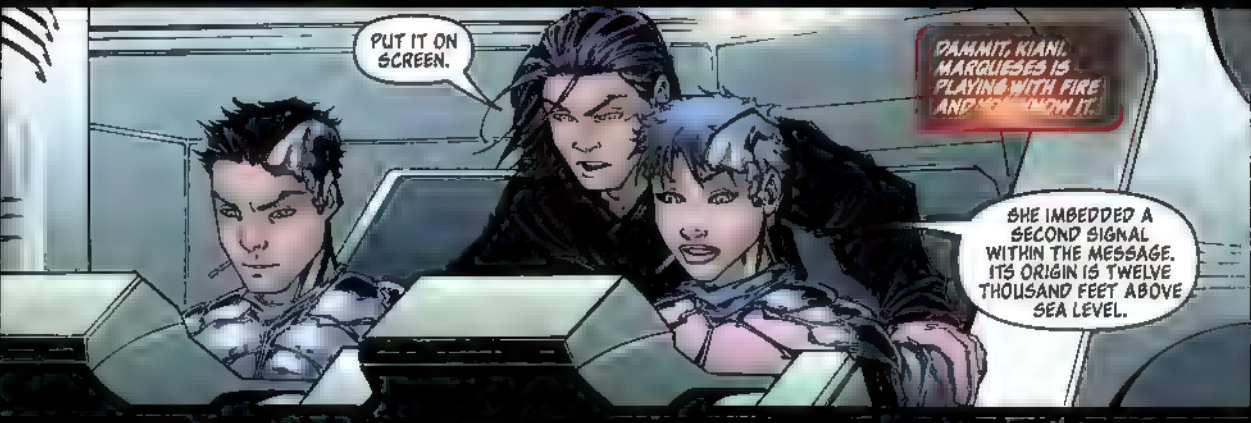
...AT LEAST
SOME OF
THEM.

LUMIR,
WHAT'S
WRONG?





CANNON.
WE'RE RECEIVING
A MESSAGE. IT'S
FROM KANI.



PUT IT ON
SCREEN.

DAMMIT, KANI.
MARGUISES IS
PLAYING WITH FIRE
AND NOT KNOW IT.

SHE IMBEDDED A
SECOND SIGNAL
WITHIN THE MESSAGE.
ITS ORIGIN IS TWELVE
THOUSAND FEET ABOVE
SEA LEVEL.



LOCK IN THE
COORDINATES
AND PREPARE
OUR SHIP.



ARE WE
GOING TO
PROVIDE BACK-UP
FOR THEIR RESCUE
MISSION?



NO.
WE ARE
GOING TO
STOP A WAR.



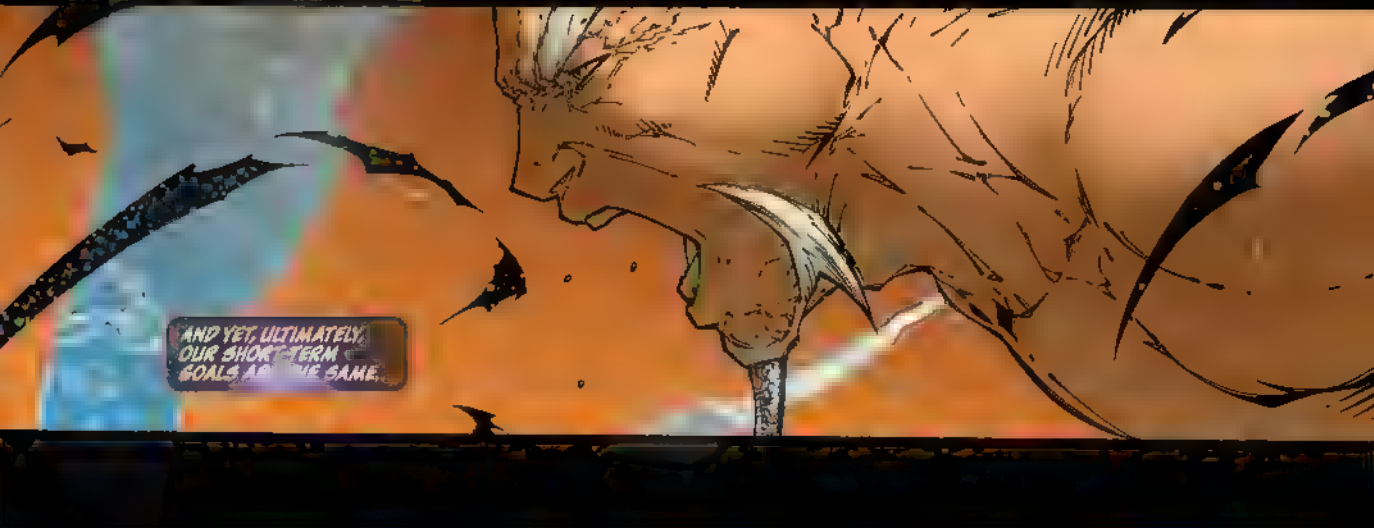
CASQUE ONCE TOLD ME
THAT WHETHER ONE WAS
DEALING WITH ALLIES OR
ENEMIES, THE SAME
DOWN.



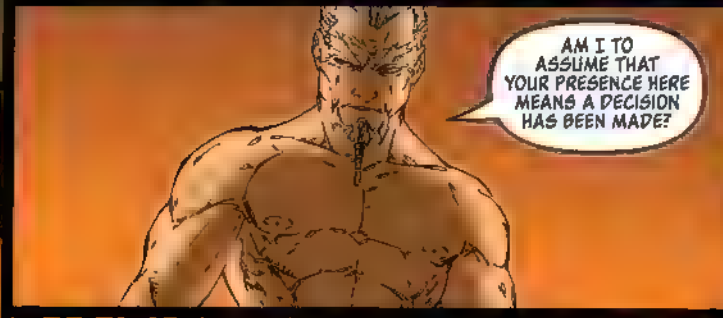
YOU HAVE TO TRUST IN
YOUR OWN ABILITY TO
TELL THE DIFFERENCE.



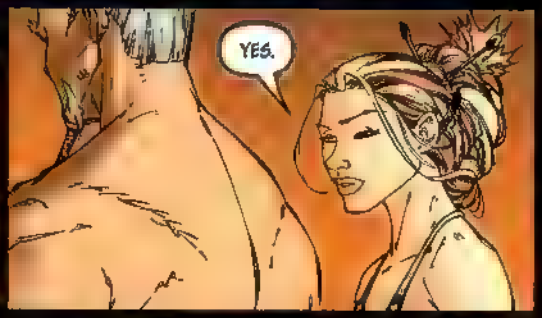
EVERYTHING ABOUT
MARQUESS GIVES ME
REASON FOR GREAT PAUSE.



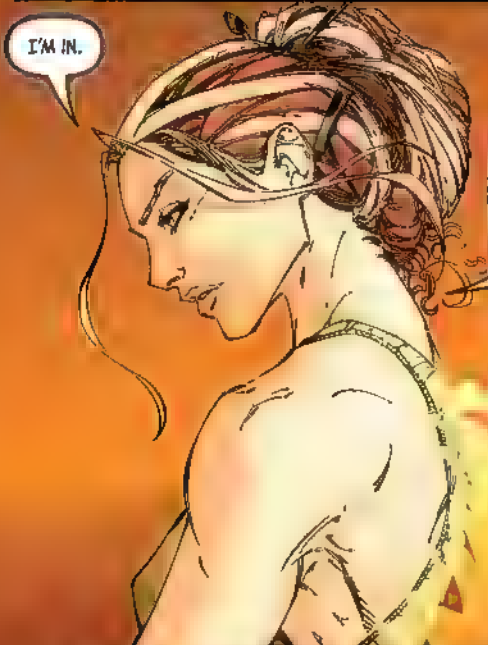
AND YET, ULTIMATELY,
OUR SHORT-TERM
GOALS ARE THE SAME.



AM I TO ASSUME THAT YOUR PRESENCE HERE MEANS A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE?



YES.

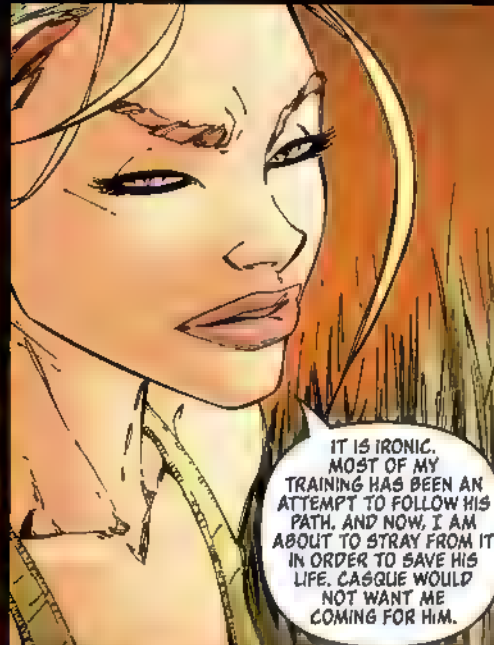


I'M IN.

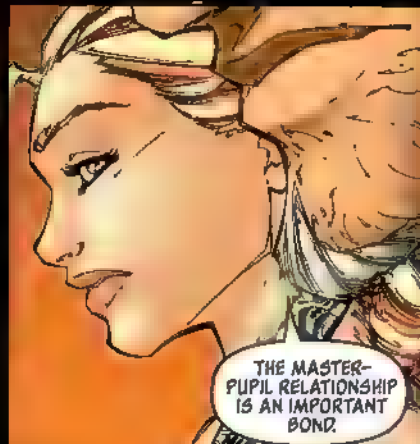


EXCELLENT.

I AM NOT BLIND TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT OUR ACTIONS MAY HOLD SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR EVERYONE, BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT CASQUE IS THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE LEFT.



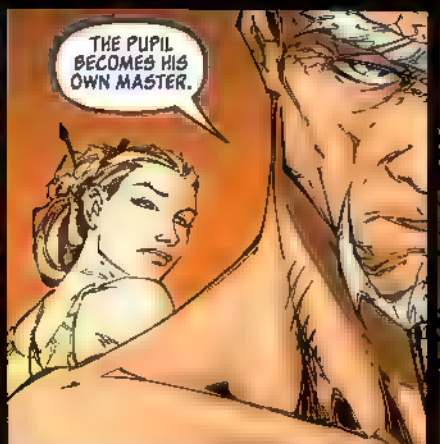
IT IS IRONIC. MOST OF MY TRAINING HAS BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW HIS PATH. AND NOW, I AM ABOUT TO STRAY FROM IT IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS LIFE. CASQUE WOULD NOT WANT ME COMING FOR HIM.



THE MASTER-PUPIL RELATIONSHIP IS AN IMPORTANT BOND.



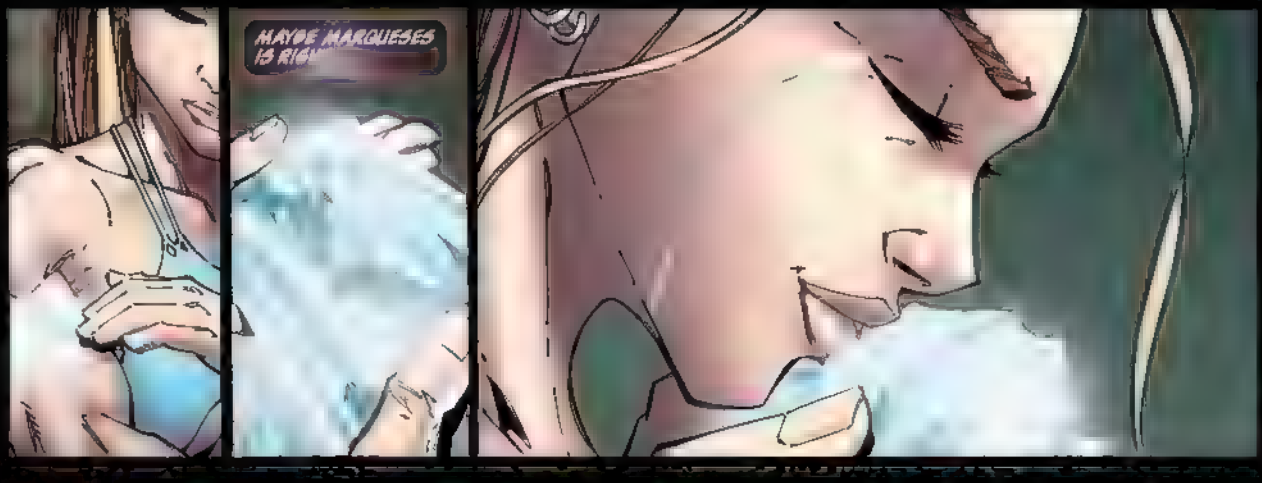
BUT AT SOME POINT, EVERY PUPIL MUST TURN AWAY FROM THEIR MASTER AND FOLLOW THEIR OWN PATH.



THE PUPIL BECOMES HIS OWN MASTER.

PERHAPS, KIANI, THAT TIME HAS FINALLY COME FOR YOU.





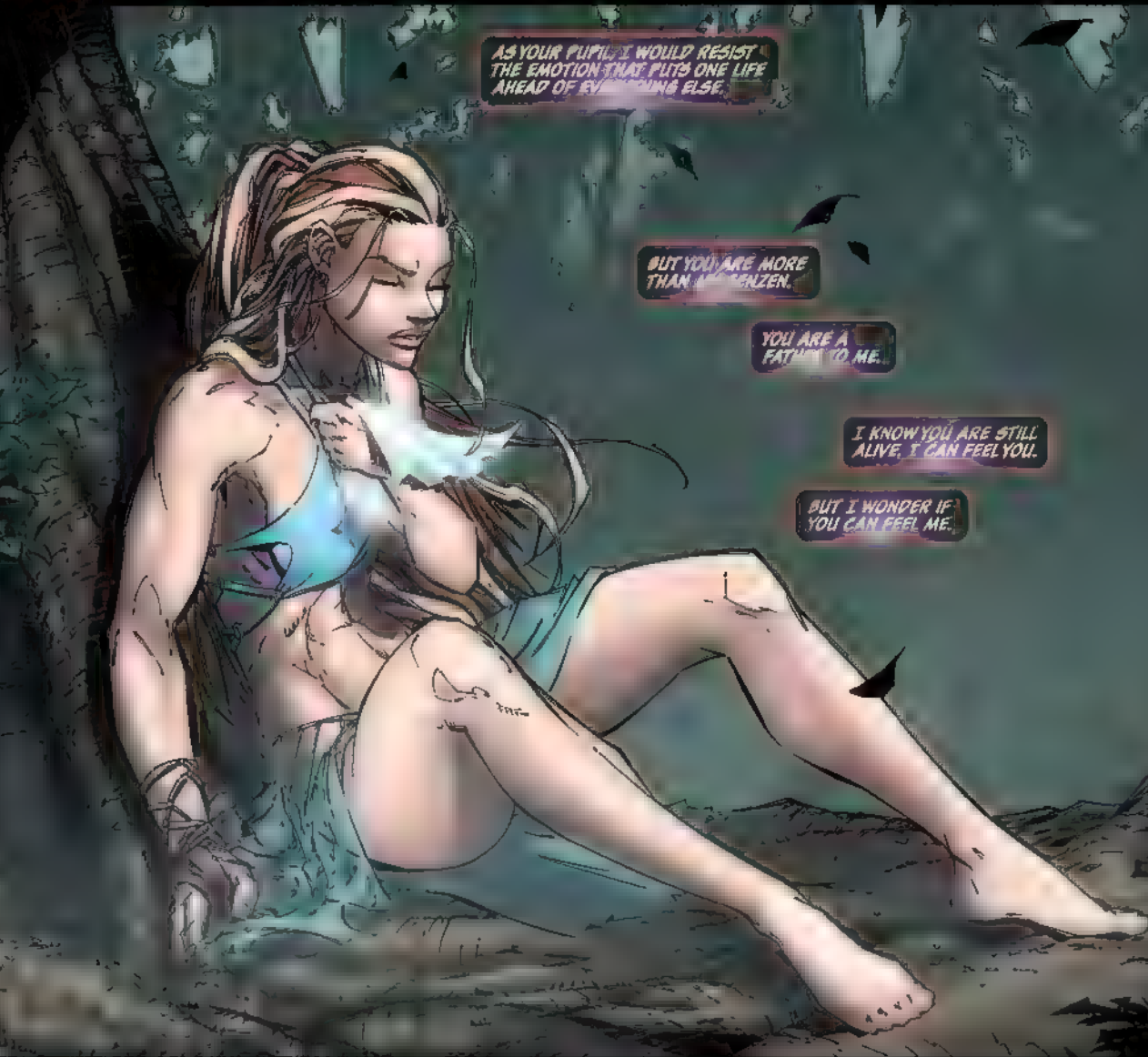
AS YOUR PUPIL, I WOULD RESIST THE EMOTION THAT PUTS ONE LIFE AHEAD OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

BUT YOU ARE MORE THAN A MENZEN.

YOU ARE A FATHER TO ME.

I KNOW YOU ARE STILL ALIVE, I CAN FEEL YOU.

BUT I WONDER IF YOU CAN FEEL ME.



DO YOU KNOW THAT I AM COMING FOR YOU?

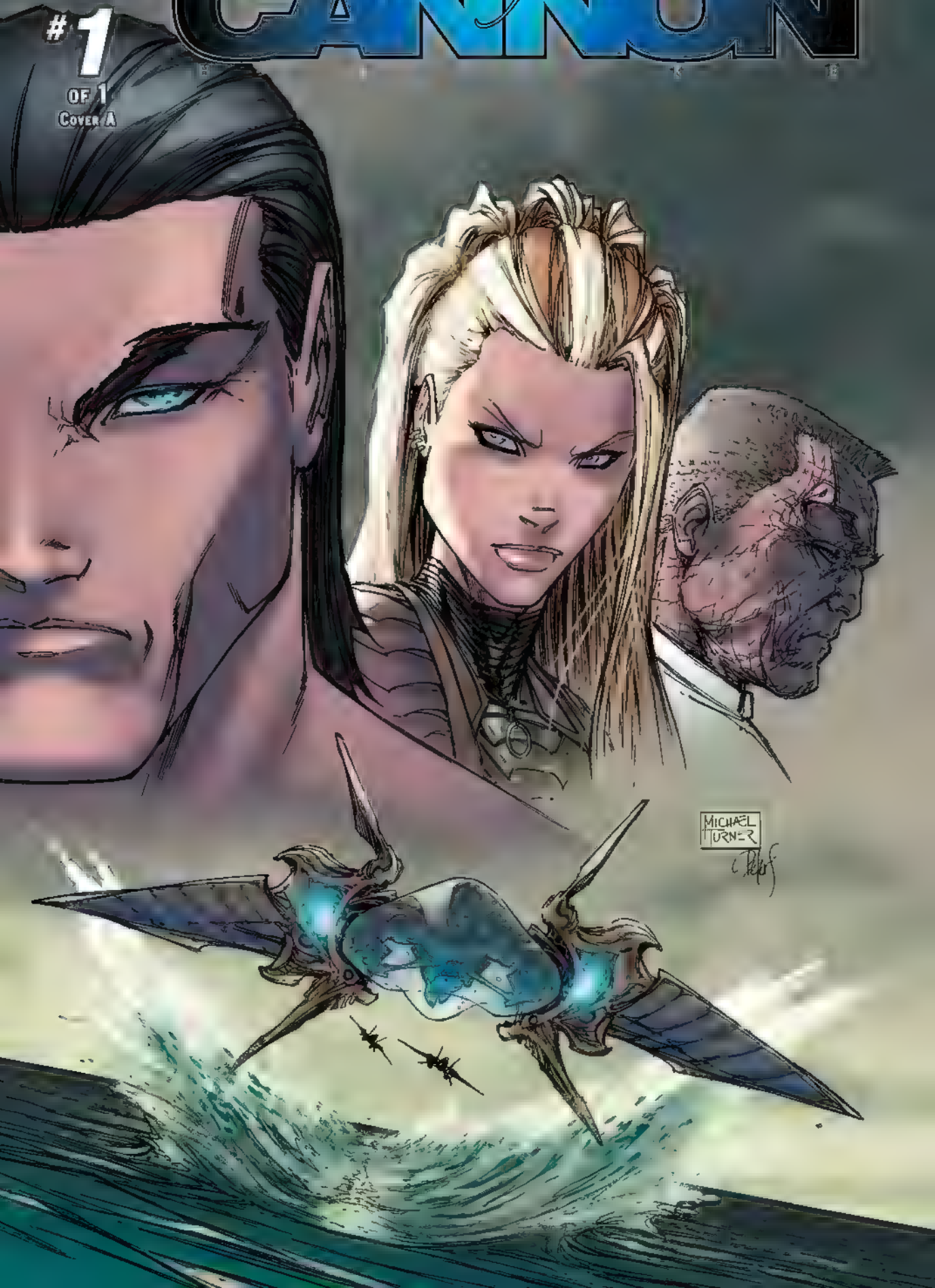
TO BE CONTINUED...



MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM
DAWN OF WAR

CANNON

#1
OF 1
COVER A



Fathom Created by
Michael Turner

Issue One of One

FATHOM DAWN OF WAR CANNON

J.T. KRUL & MICHAEL TURNER

story

KOI TURNBULL

pencils

JASON GORDER

inks

BETH SOTELO

colors

DREAMER DESIGN

letters

Digitally Inked by FRANK MASTROMADRO, VINCE HERNANDEZ | Design and Production by JOSH REES, MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD | Lettering and Design by DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER | President: FRANK MASTROMADRO | Vice President: PETER STEIGERWALD | Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ | Editorial Assistant: JOSH REES
Marketing Assistant: STEPHANIE MATSON | Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS | AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUFF | Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™ DAWN OF WAR CANNON HAWKE Vol. 1 Issue 1

JANUARY 2011 DIGITAL COPY Published by Aspen MLT, Inc. Office of Publication: 1658 Green Valley Parkway, Suite 100, San Jose, CA 95128. The Aspen MLT logo is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Fathom™ and the Fathom logo are trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The names, content, and likenesses of characters and their likenesses are © 2011 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between these characters and copyrighted characters in the real world, whether living or dead, are coincidental and are purely coincidental. With the exception of the two named characters, all other characters and content in this book may be reproduced, transmitted, broadcast, or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

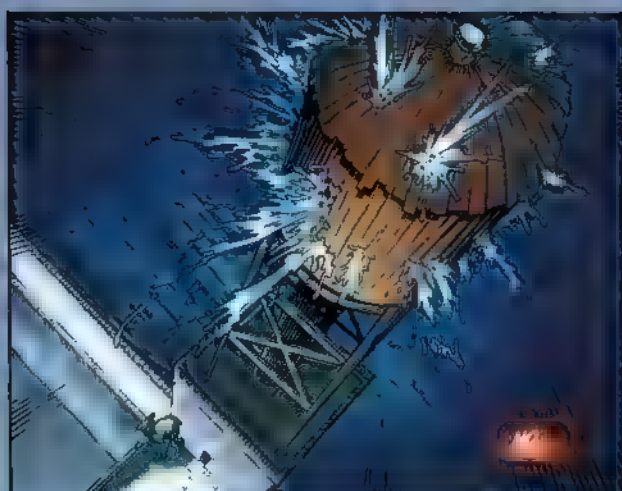
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

OR VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT
FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

1-800-COMICBOOK





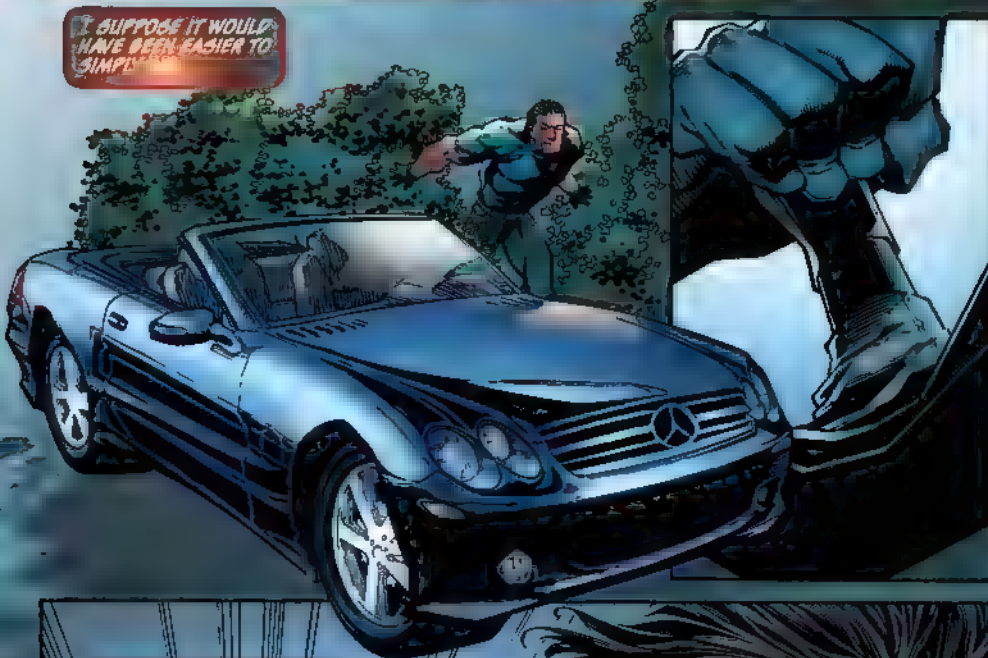
...IT'S ONLY WATER.



THIS WAS THE CLOSEST
MILITARY COMPOUND TO
SHEPHERD'S FIELD, THE
LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF
CASQUIN AND HIS CORPS
OF SLAVES.

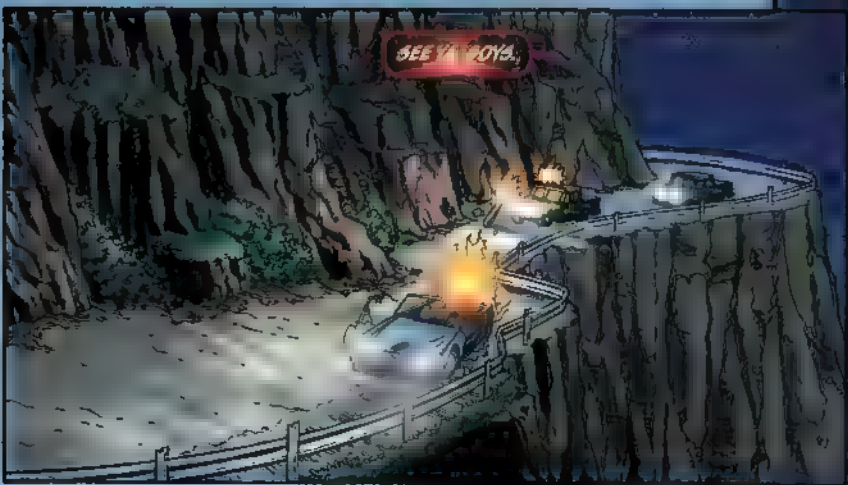
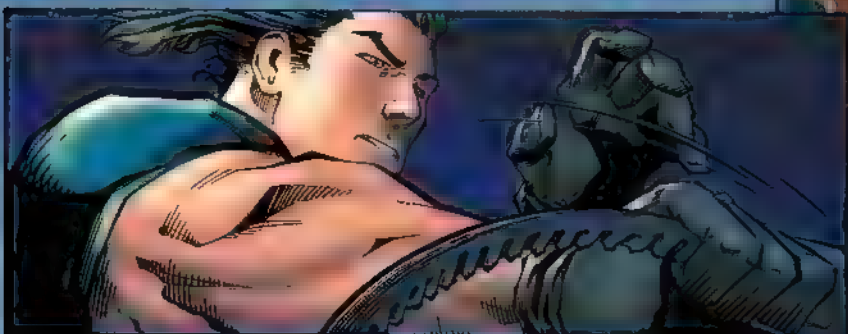
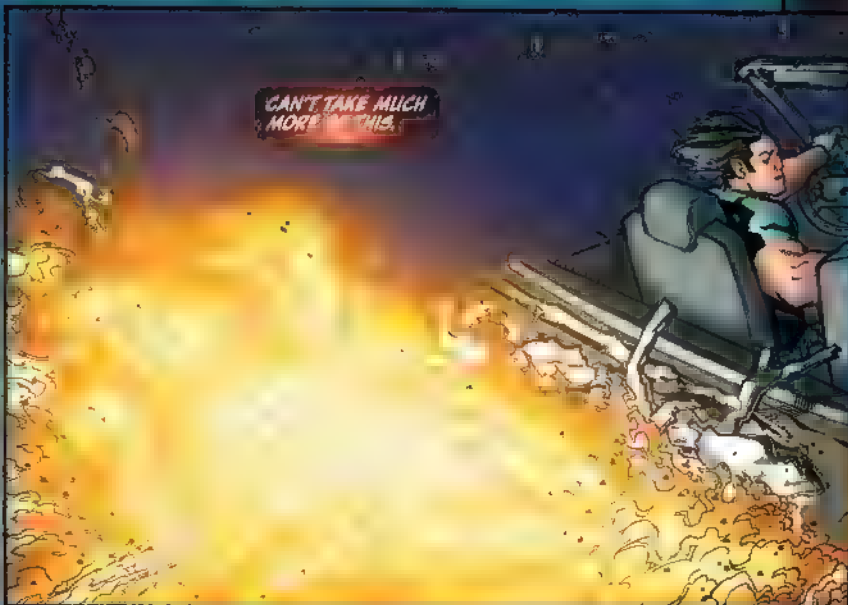
I DIDN'T THINK THE ZUPANS
HAD THE WHEREWITHAL TO
GET THE BEST OF THEM, BUT
I HAD TO TAKE CARE FOR MYSELF.

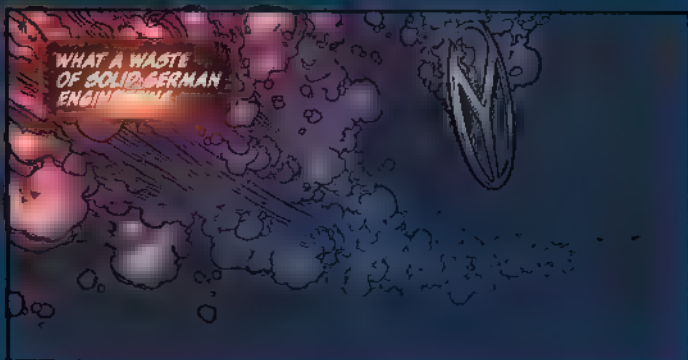
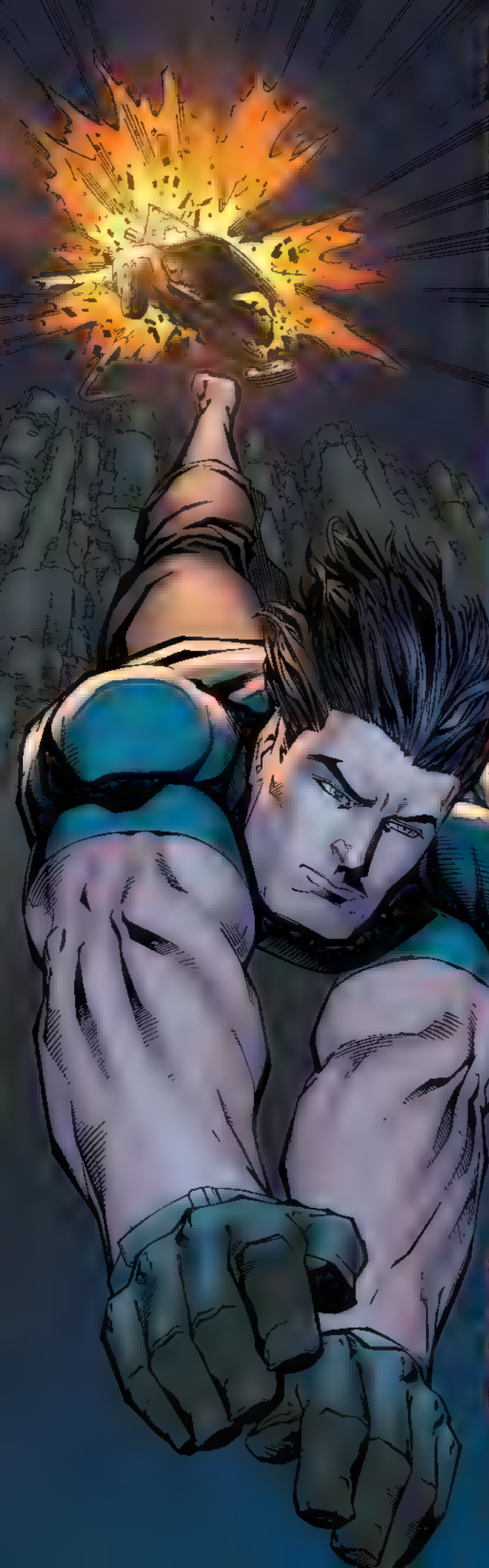
I SUPPOSE IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN EASIER TO
SIMPLY



BUT, THEY PROBABLY WOULD
HAVE BEEN JUST AS SORE
WHEN I TOLD THEM I
DIDN'T SEE THEM.







FOR OUTPOST.

THREE WEEKS AND NO SIGN
OF THEM. IT'S LIKE THEY'VE
AND DISAPPEARED.

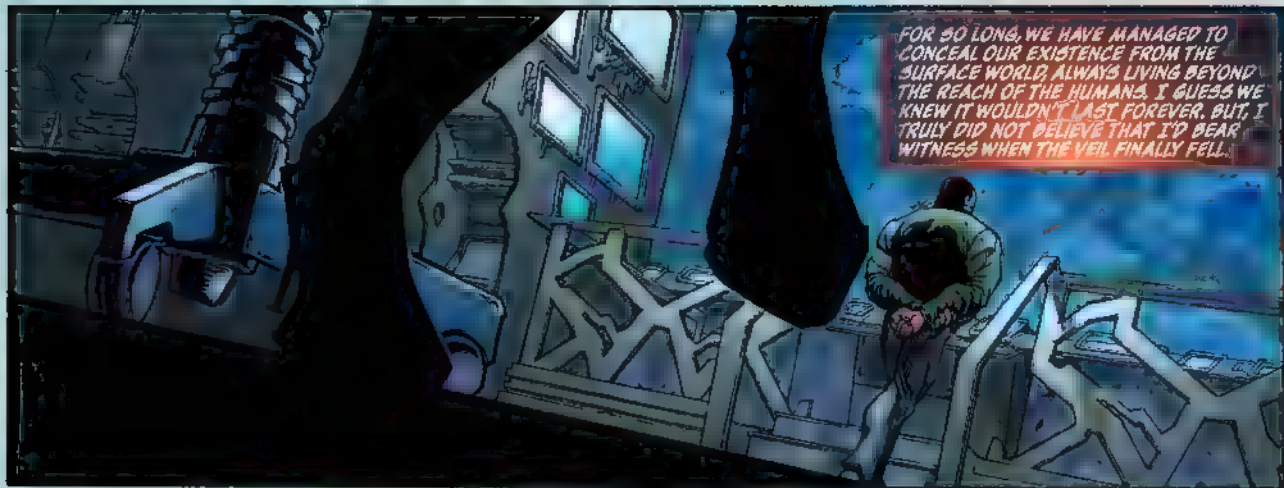
SIR, UNIT FIVE
HAS FINISHED THEIR
SWEEP OF TENSOR'S
SHELF. NOTHING TO
REPORT.

CANNON, WE'RE
RECEIVING A
MESSAGE. IT'S
FROM KIANI.

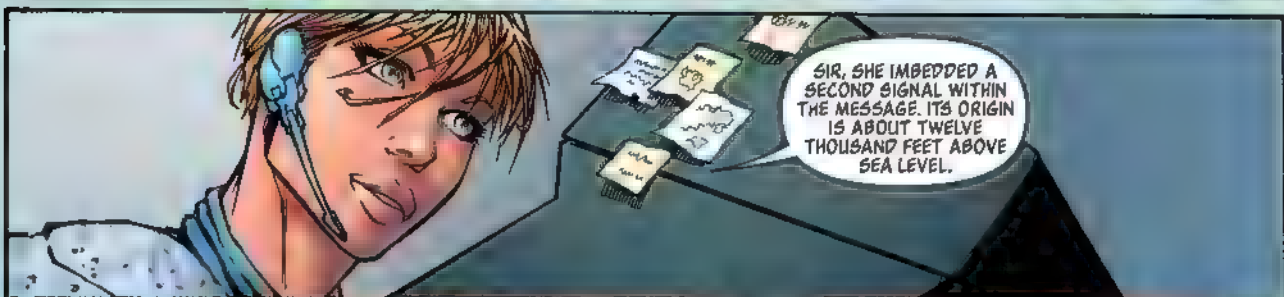
PUT IT ON
SCREEN.

Cannon, I've found Marqueses.
He's preparing to rescue Casper
and the others who have been
taken hostage by the humans.
And, I'm going with him.
Kiani.

DAMMIT, KIANI.
MARQUESES IS
PLAYING WITH FIRE
AND NOT SHOW IT.



FOR SO LONG, WE HAVE MANAGED TO CONCEAL OUR EXISTENCE FROM THE SURFACE WORLD, ALWAYS LIVING BEYOND THE REACH OF THE HUMANS. I GUESS WE KNEW IT WOULDN'T LAST FOREVER, BUT, I TRULY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT I'D BEAR WITNESS WHEN THE VEIL FINALLY FELL.



SIR, SHE IMBEDDED A SECOND SIGNAL WITHIN THE MESSAGE. ITS ORIGIN IS ABOUT TWELVE THOUSAND FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL.



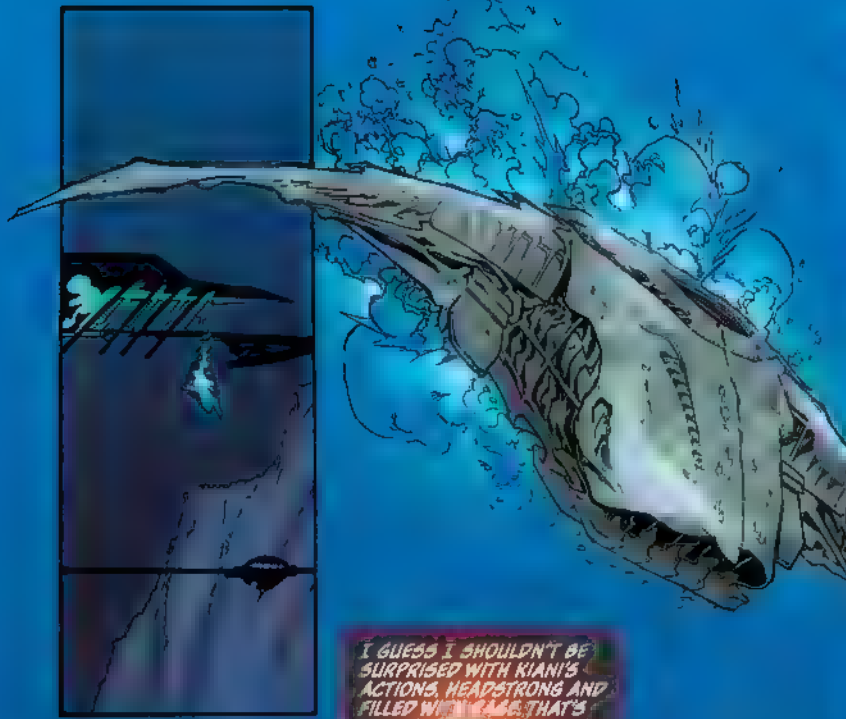
LOCK IN THE COORDINATES AND PREPARE OUR SHIP.

ARE WE GOING TO PROVIDE BACK-UP FOR THEIR RESCUE MISSION?

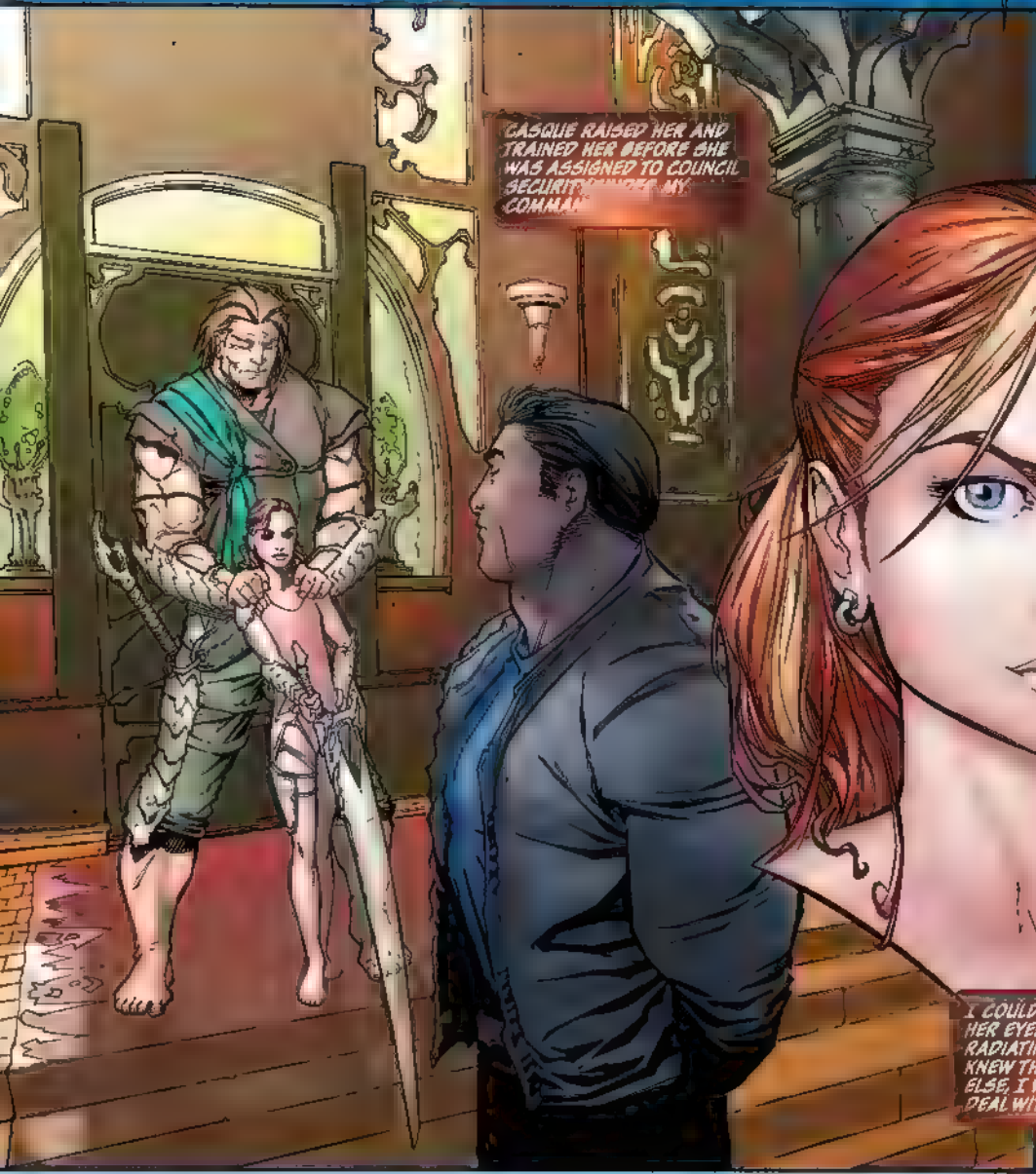


NO...

...WE ARE GOING TO STOP A WAR.



I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED WITH KIANI'S ACTIONS. HEADSTRONG AND FILLED WITH RAGE, THAT'S HOW SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN.



CASQUE RAISED HER AND TRAINED HER BEFORE SHE WAS ASSIGNED TO COUNCIL SECURITY UNDER MY COMMAND.

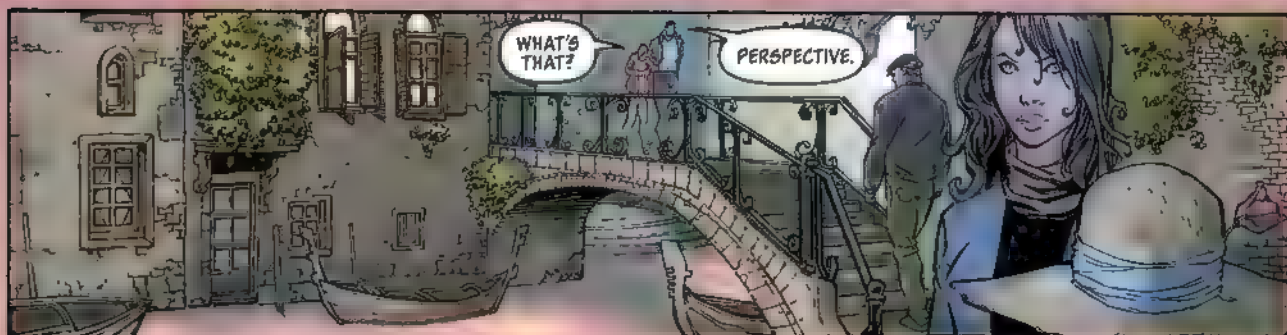


I COULD SEE THE HATRED IN HER EYES. IT WAS PRACTICALLY RADIATING FROM HER BODY. I KNEW THAT BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH



CANNON, WHAT ARE WE DOING UP HERE?

THERE'S SOMETHING USEFUL I HOPE YOU FIND HERE.

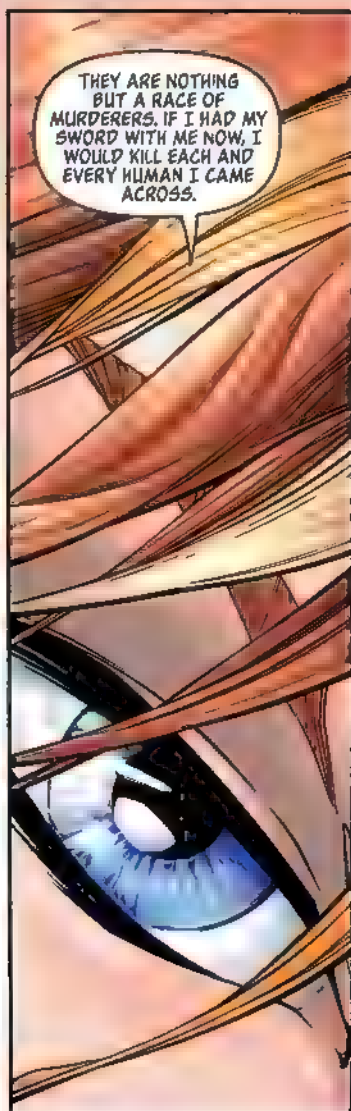


WHAT'S THAT?

PERSPECTIVE.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS... TO EVERYONE IN MARIELLE... WAS A TRAGEDY. BUT, YOU CANNOT DENOUNCE AN ENTIRE FORM OF LIFE DUE TO THE ACTIONS OF A FEW. IF YOU RECALL, NOT ALL OF OUR ANCESTORS TRAVELED ALONG SUCH NOBLE PATHS.



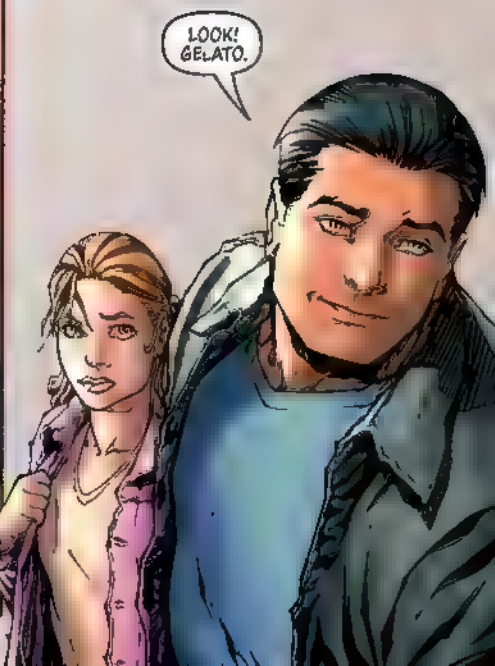
THEY ARE NOTHING BUT A RACE OF MURDERERS. IF I HAD MY SWORD WITH ME NOW, I WOULD KILL EACH AND EVERY HUMAN I CAME ACROSS.

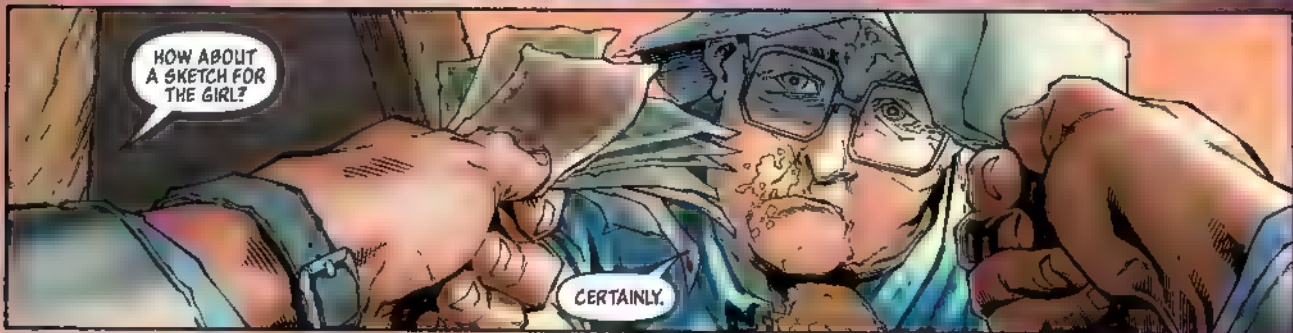
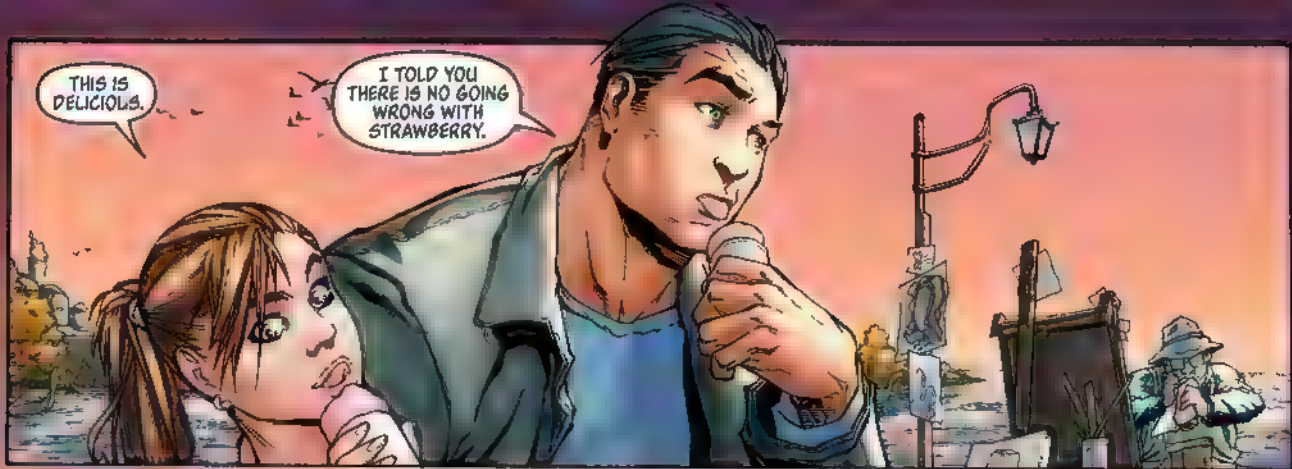


WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE KEEPING AN OPEN MIND ABOUT IT.

THEY ARE THE ONES WITH THE CLOSED MINDS. WE HIDE BELOW BECAUSE THE HUMANS ARE ONLY CAPABLE OF REACTING WITH HATE-- WHETHER IT'S THE UNKNOWN OR EVEN THEIR OWN KIND.

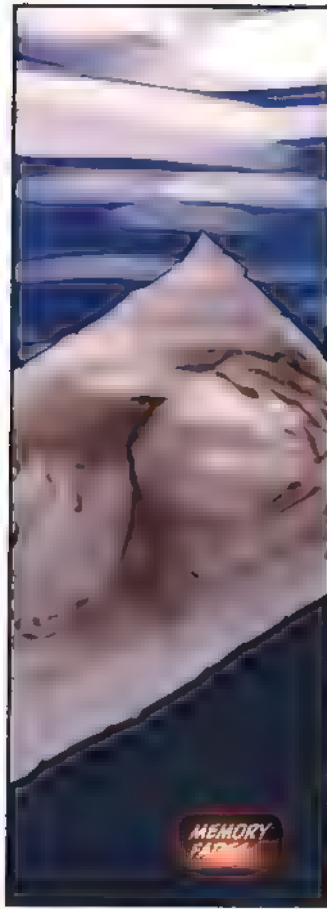
IT IS NOT HATE, KIANI. IT'S FEAR. AND, WHILE THEIR SOCIETY MAY NOT BE ADVANCED ENOUGH TO GRAPPLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF OUR VERY EXISTENCE, THE HUMANS ARE NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.







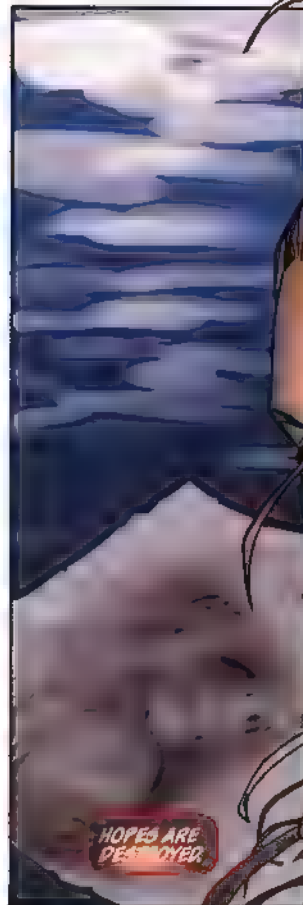
BUT THE IMPACT OF
THAT DAY COULD NOT
LAST IN CANA'S MIND.



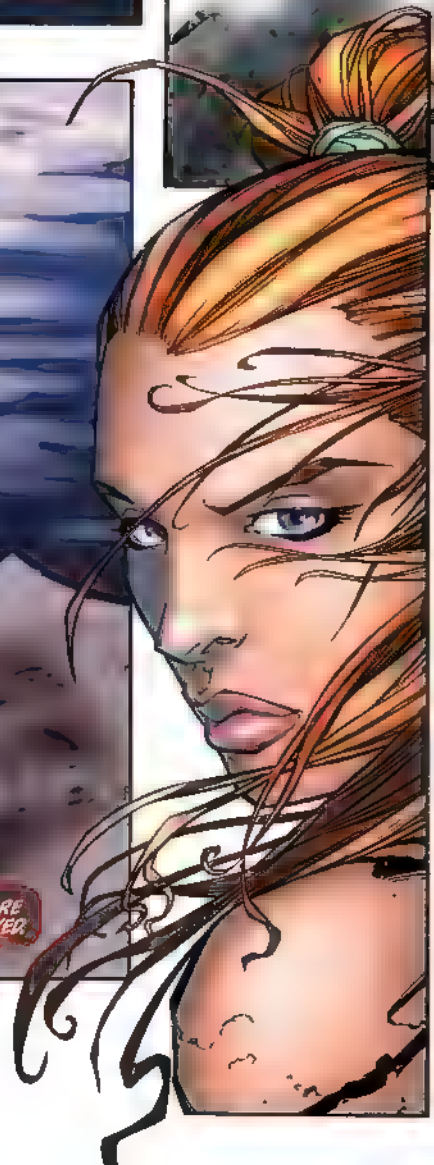
MEMORY
FADING

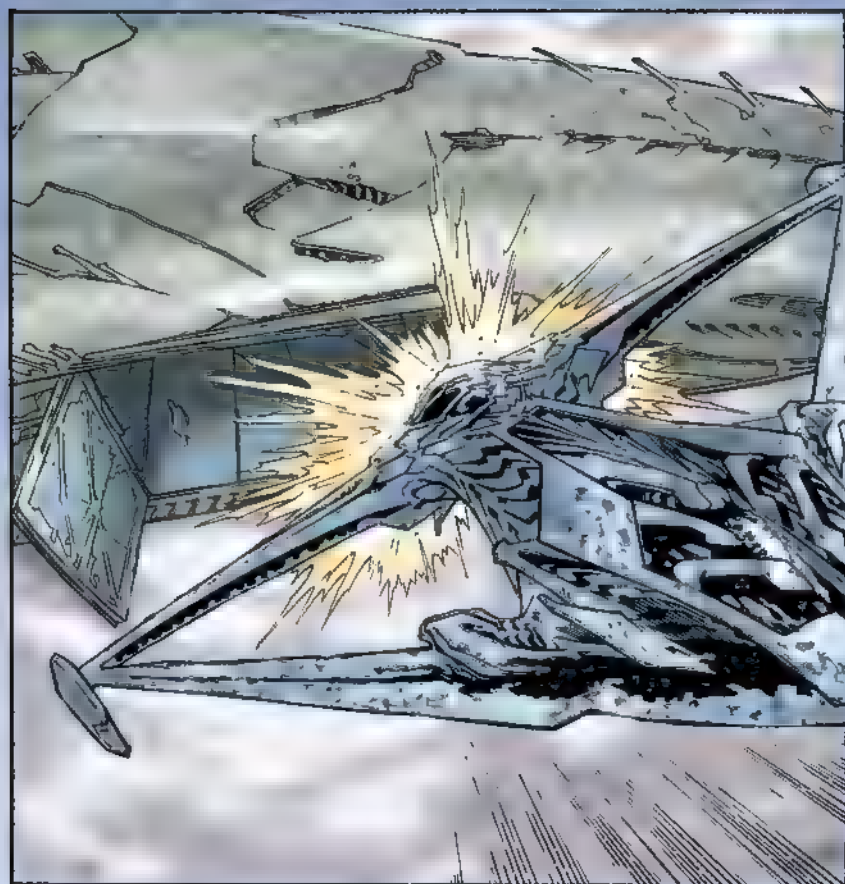
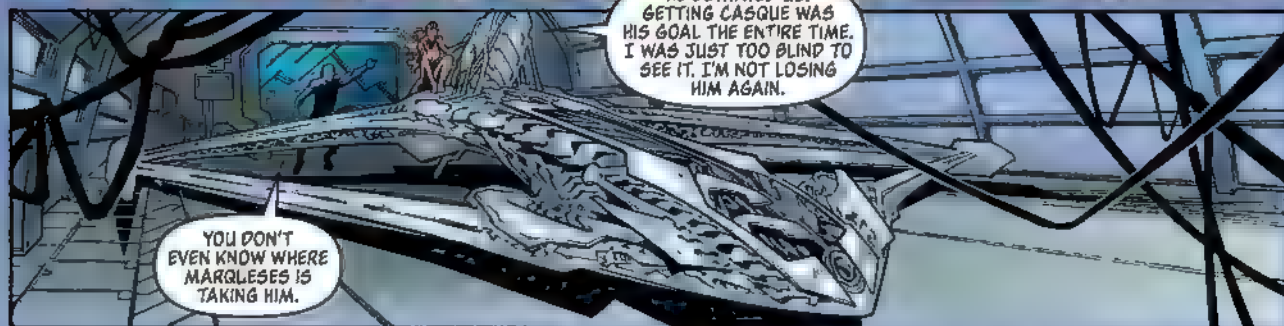
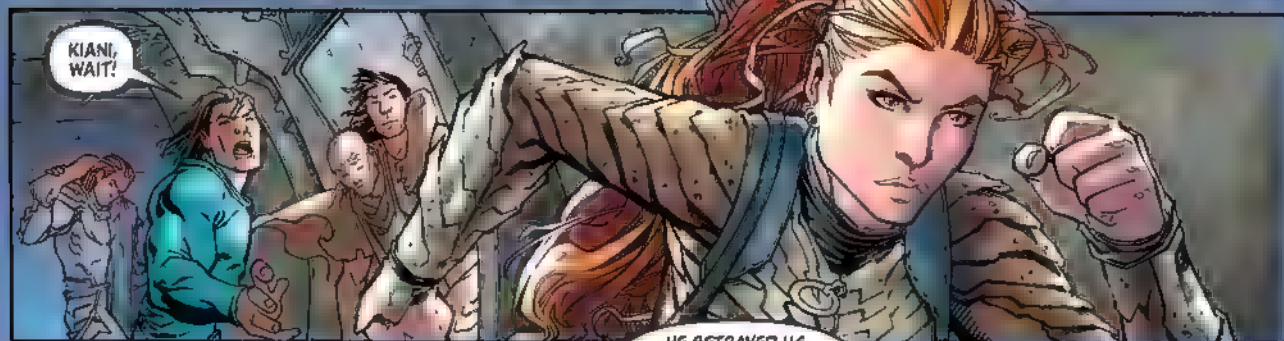


HEARTS ARE
HARDENED



HOPES ARE
DESTROYED







IF YOU HAVE
SOMETHING TO
SAY, JUST
SAY IT.



WE JUST
NEVER TOOK YOU
FOR THE TYPE TO
ABANDON YOUR
FRIENDS.

WE DIDN'T
ABANDON KIANI. SHE LEFT.
SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS
DOING, AND SHE ALSO KNEW
THAT I WOULDN'T FOLLOW
AFTER HER.



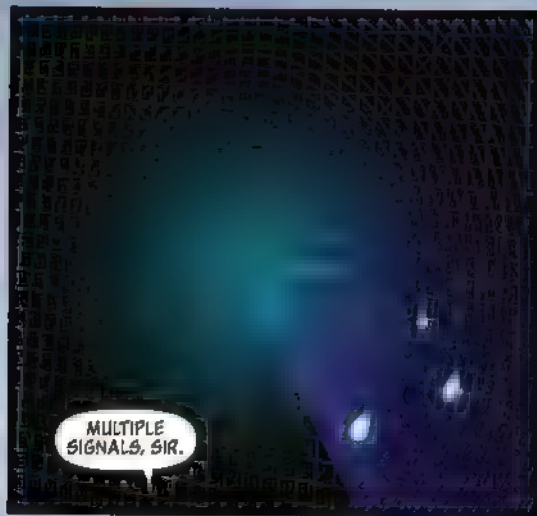
OUR PRIORITY IS
TO GET OUR INJURED
COMRADES BACK HOME,
BEFORE ANYMORE OF
THEM DIE.



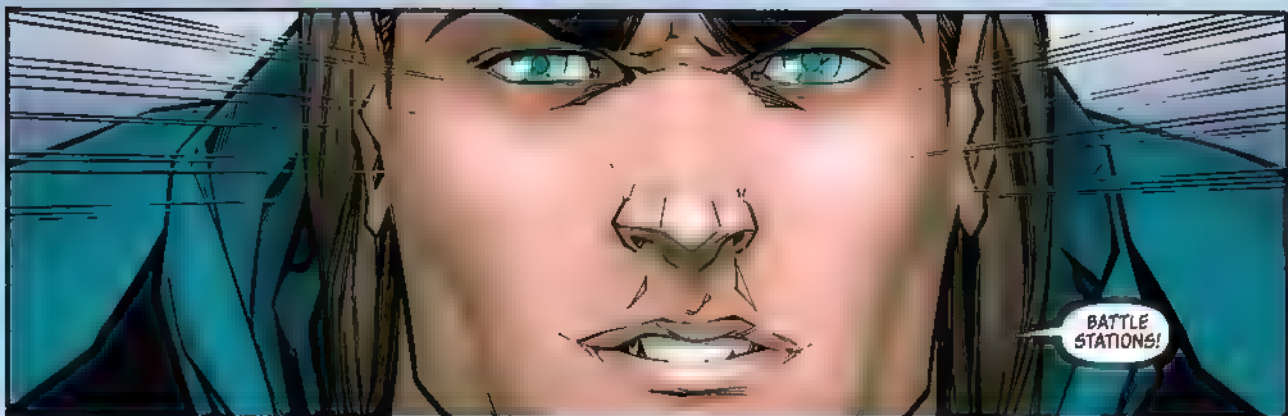
SIR, I'M PICKING
UP A SIGNAL.
SOMETHING'S COMING
THIS WAY.

IT COULD
BE KIANI.

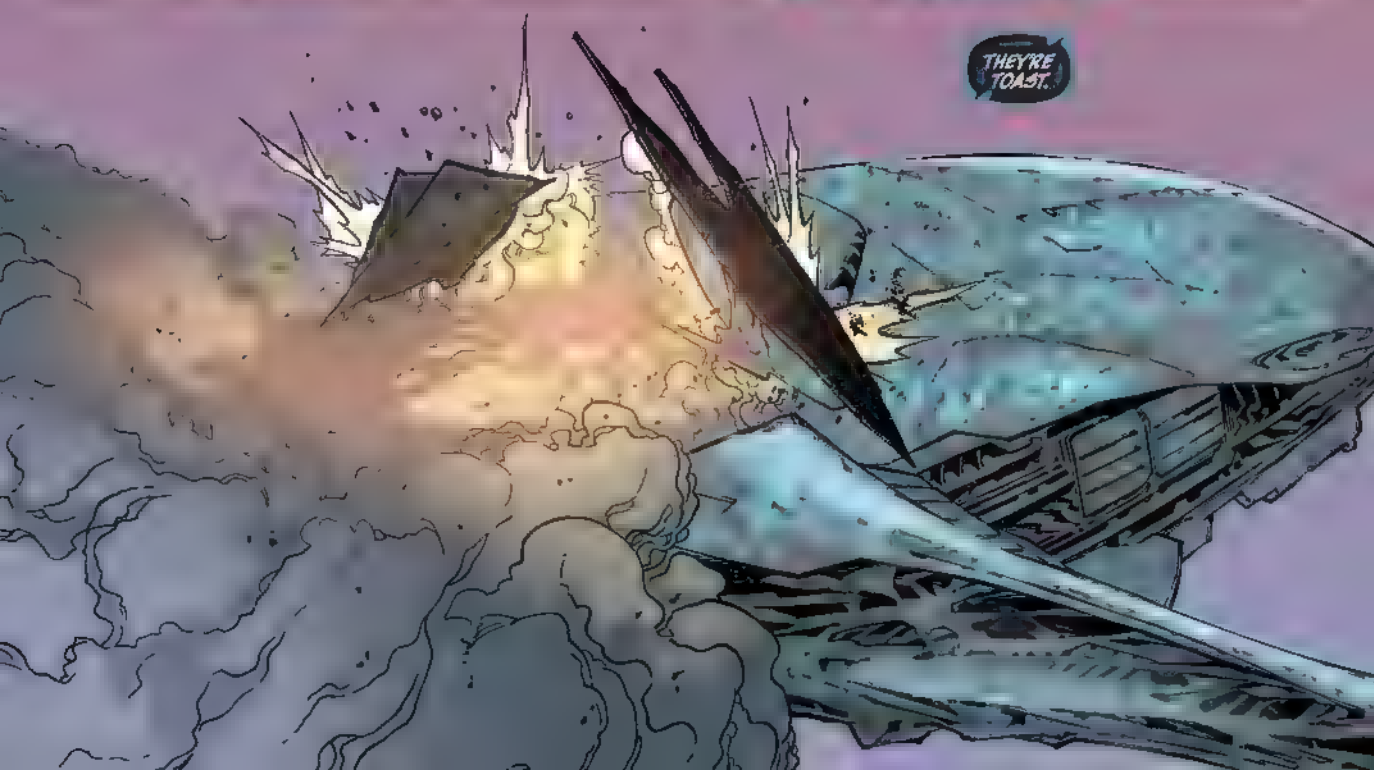
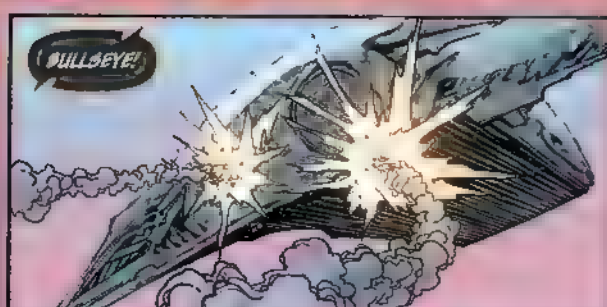
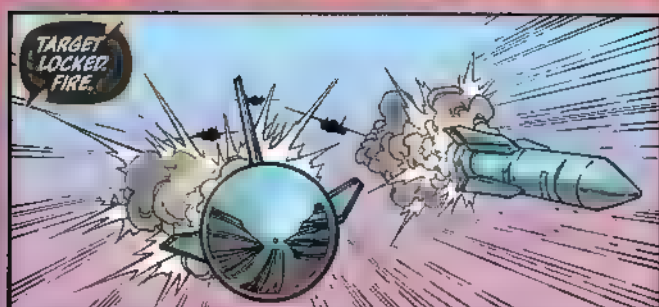
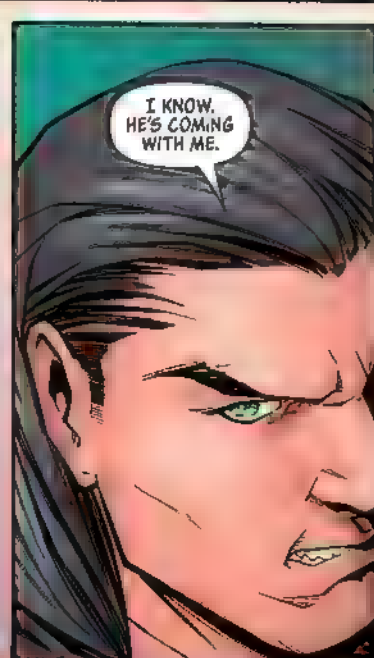
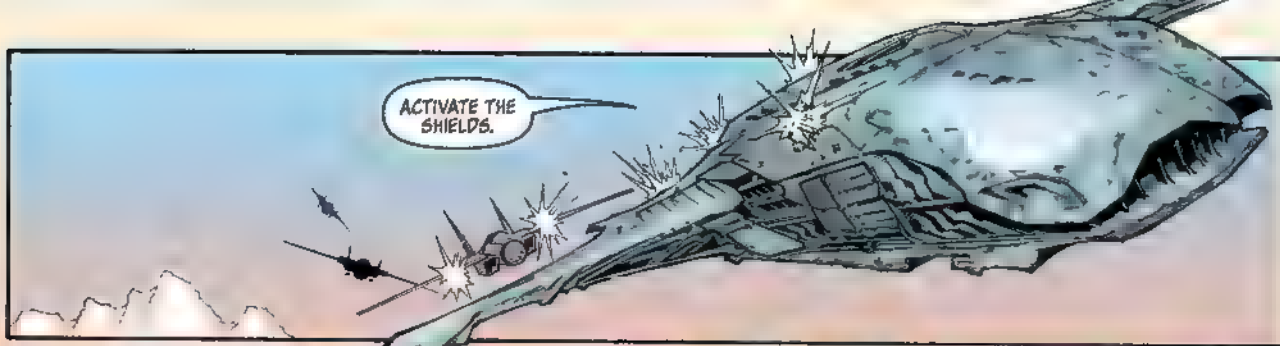
NOT
LIKELY.



MULTIPLE
SIGNALS, SIR.



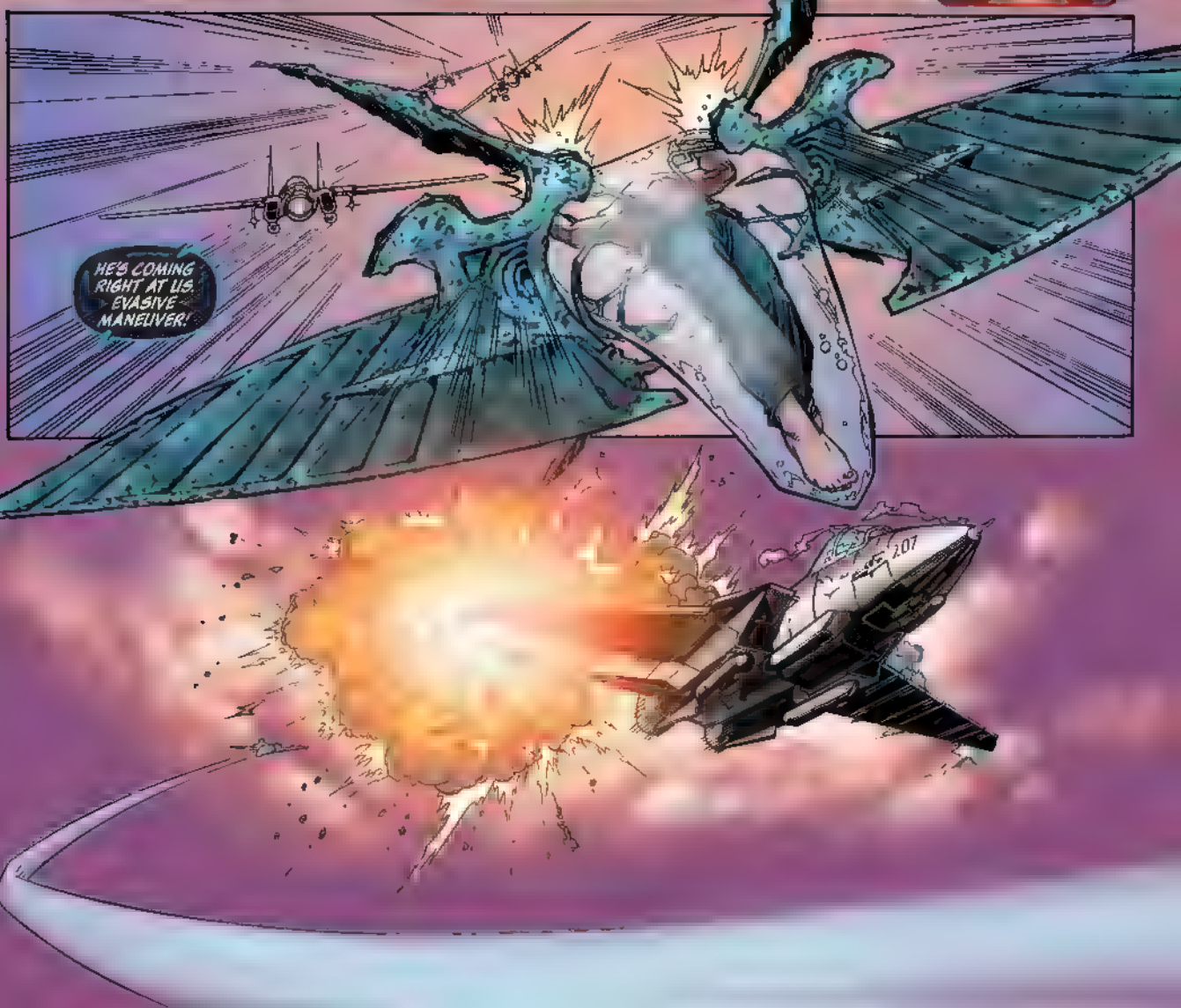
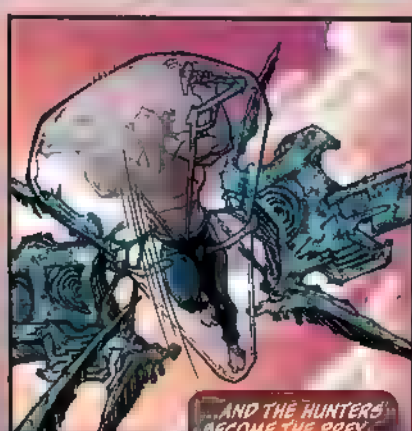
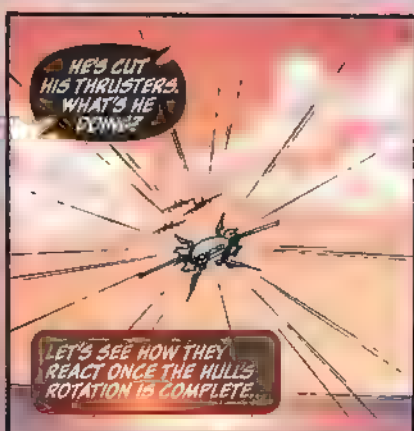
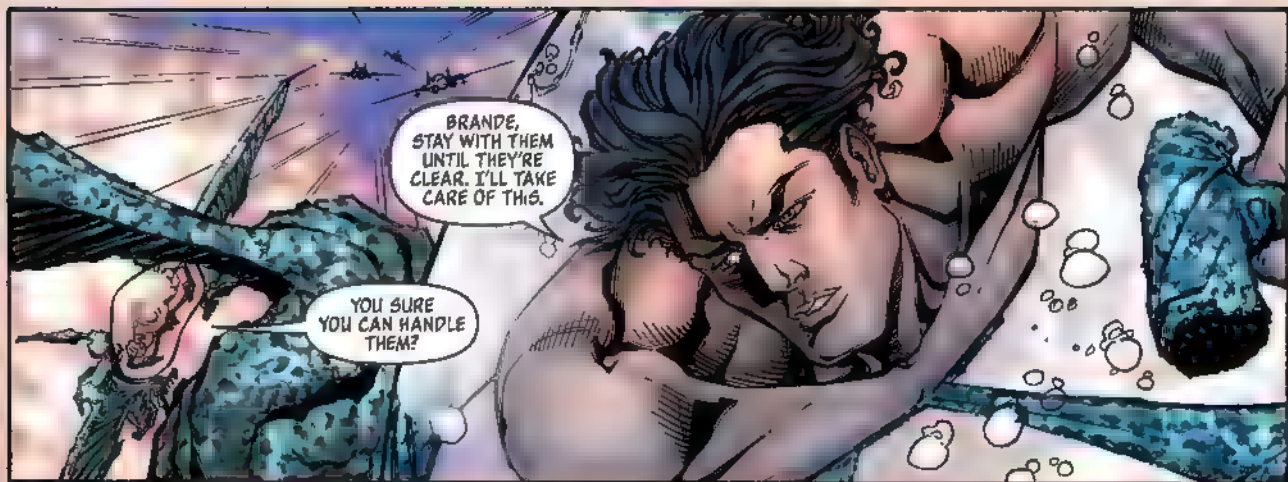
BATTLE
STATIONS!





WHAT THE
HELL?

HOLY
CRAP.



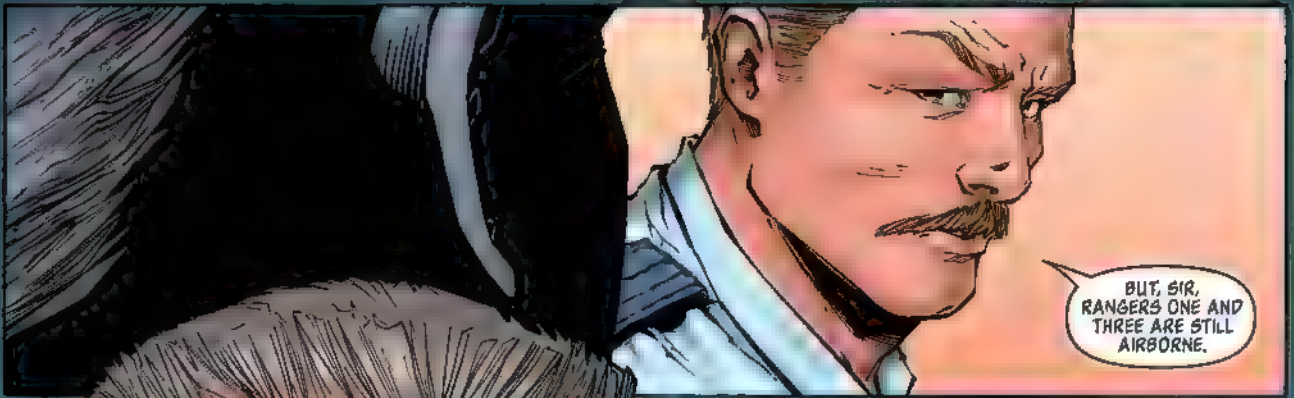
RANGER TWO
IS DOWN.

I REPEAT,
RANGER TWO
IS DOWN.



SCRAMBLE
FOUR THROUGH
SIX.

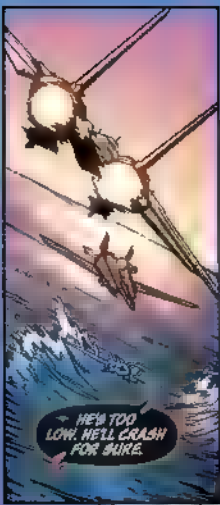
PREPARE THE
RESPONSE TEAM TO
RETRIEVE THE VIDEO
SYSTEMS FROM THE
DOWNED FIGHTERS.



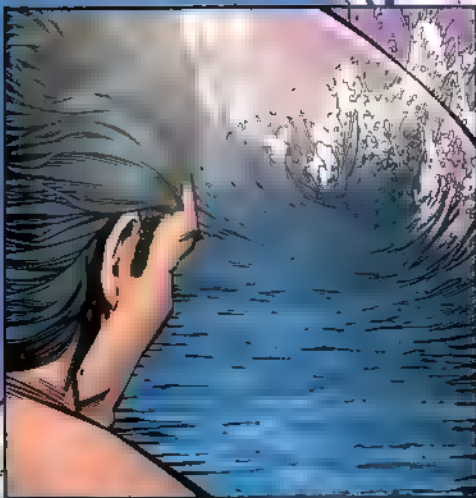
BUT, SIR,
RANGERS ONE AND
THREE ARE STILL
AIRBORNE.



NOT FOR
LONG.



HEY TOO LOW. HE'LL CRASH FOR SURE.



ARE YOU
AUTOPILOT?

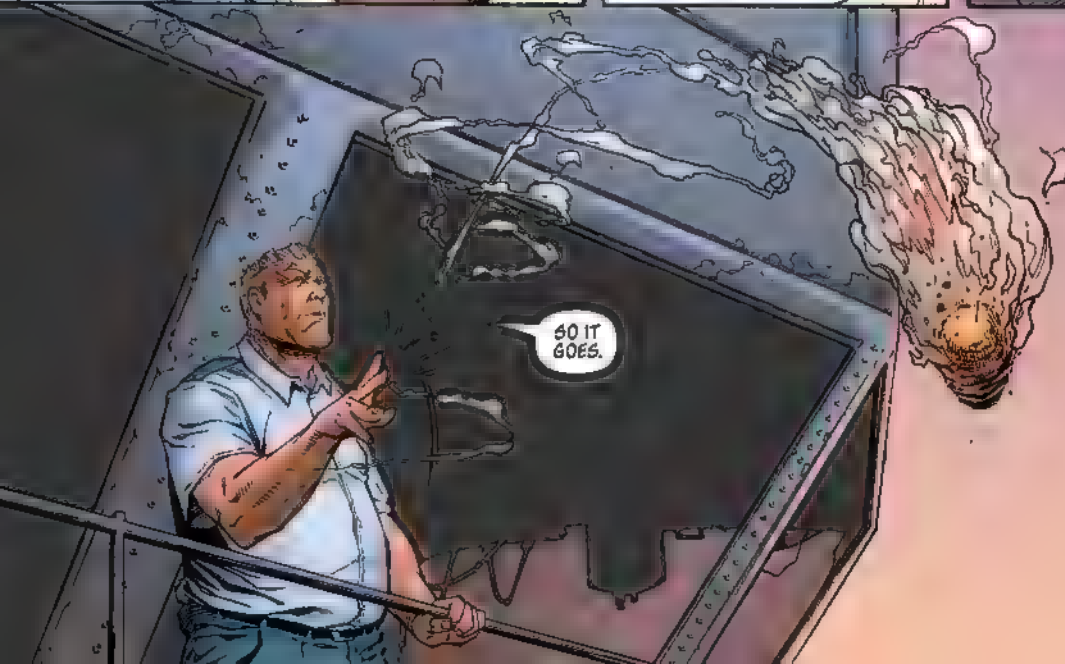
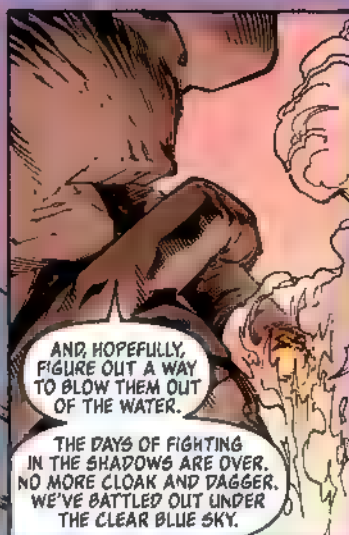
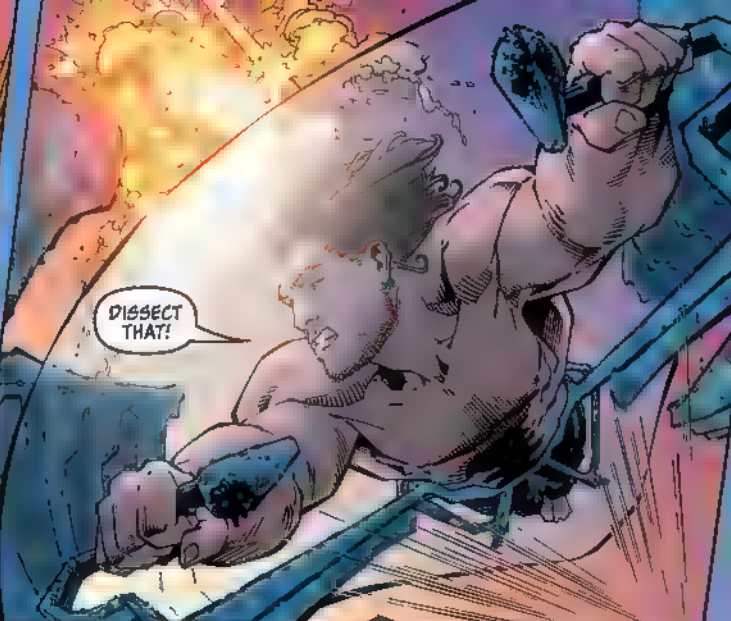
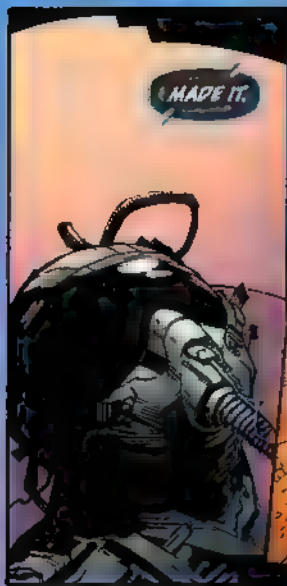
WHILE LIVE

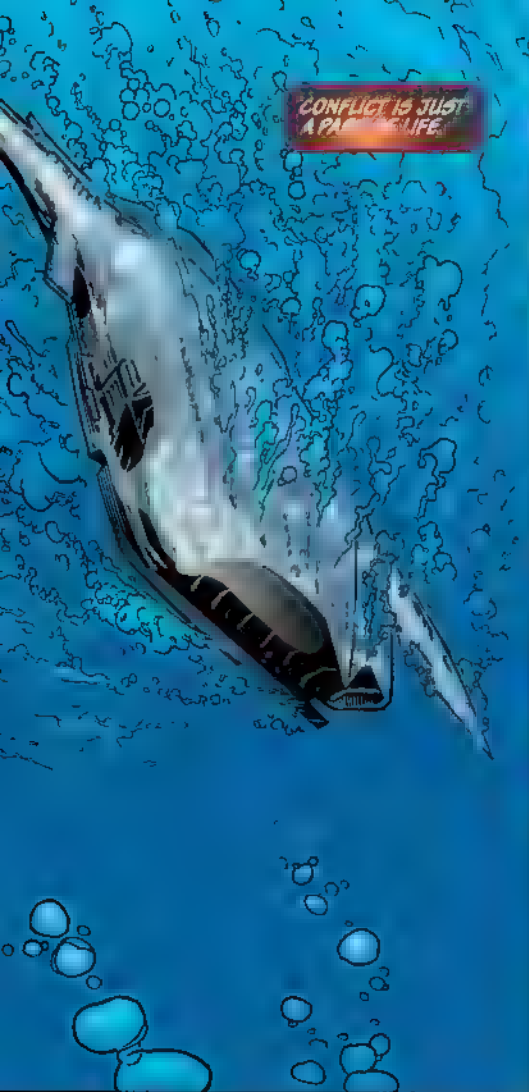
WE'RE
NOT GOING TO
MAKE IT!



AGGGHHH!!







CONFLICT IS JUST
A PART OF LIFE.



AND WAR IS
CONFLICT.



LOOKING BACK ON OUR
PAST, WE SOMETIMES
STRUGGLE TO REMEMBER
WHAT OUR WARS WERE
EVEN ABOUT.

GREED?
REVENGE?
HONOR?



THE LINES BETWEEN
CAUSE AND EFFECT
BLUR, BUT ONE THING
REMAINS CLEAR.

WE ALWAYS REMEMBERED THE
MOMENT THE WAR BEGAN...



...AND WE KNEW
THAT THINGS WOULD
NEVER BE THE SAME.



MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM
DAWN of WAR

#2
OF 3
COVER A



tzentes 03 gorden

Fathom Created by
Michael Turner

Issue Two of Three

The logo for Michael Turner's Fathom Dawn of War. The word "FATHOM" is in a large, stylized, metallic font with a blue and silver gradient. Above it, "MICHAEL TURNER'S" is written in a smaller, blue, serif font. Below "FATHOM", the words "DAWN of WAR" are written in a black, serif font, with "of" in a cursive script. The background is a blue, textured surface with a bright light source creating a lens flare effect.

J.T. KRUL, TALENT CALDWELL & MICHAEL TURNER

STORY

TALENT CALDWELL

pencils

JASON GORDER

links

CHRISTINA STRAIN

colors

DREAMER DESIGN

Letters

Digital Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO, VINCE HERNANDEZ **Design and Production: JOSH REED, MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD** **Lettering and Images by: DREAMER DESIGN**

FOR ANYONE

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER **President: FRANK MASTROMAURE** **Vice President: PETER STEIGERWALD** **Editorial Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ** **Editorial Assistant: JOHN REED**
Marketing Assistant: STEPHANIE MATSON **Production Assistant: CHAE RIGGS** **AskTheStore.com: CHRIS RUFF** **Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN**

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™: DAWN OF WAR Vol. 1 Issue 2

JANUARY 2011, DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc., Office of Publication, 3550 Green Valley Circle, Suite 100, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT Inc. logo is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. "Michael Turner's Fathom" and the Fathom logo are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork characters and their likenesses are © 2011 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

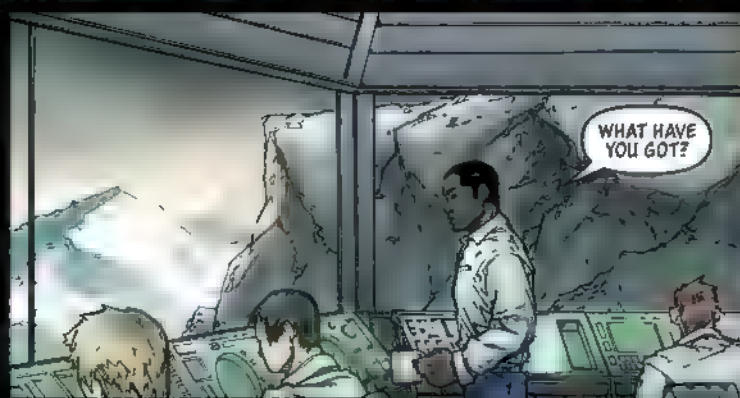
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

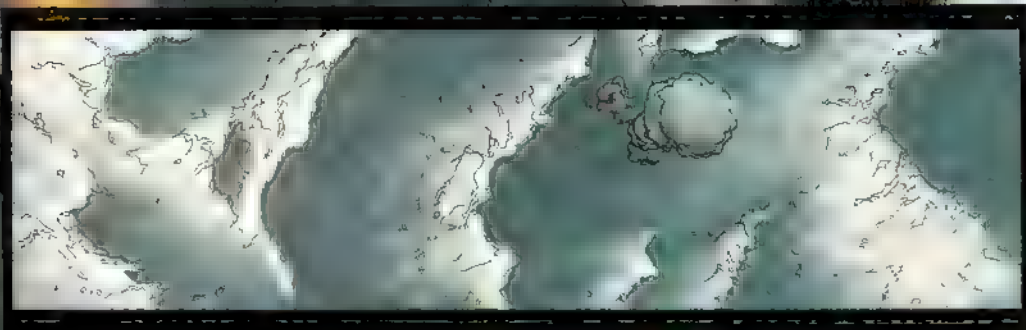
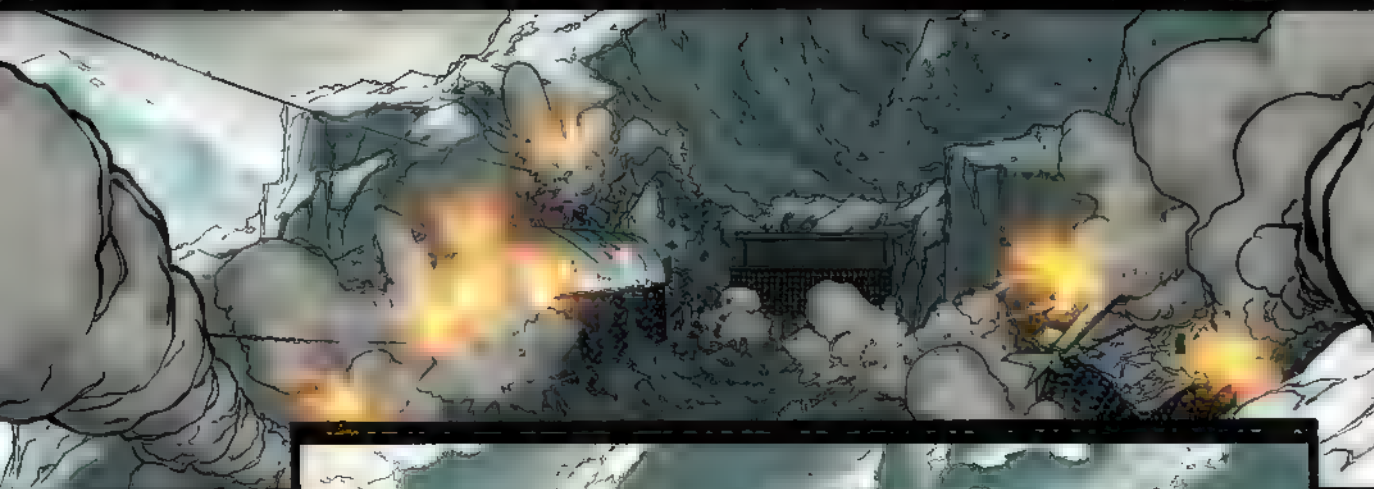
FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

#800-COMICBOOK



ATTENTION,
UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT,
YOU HAVE ENTERED
RESTRICTED AIRSPACE.
IDENTIFY.





THESE HUMANS HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT THEY
ARE UP AGAINST



MAKES IT HARD TO BELIEVE
THEY GOT THE DROP ON
CASQUE WHEN THEY DID



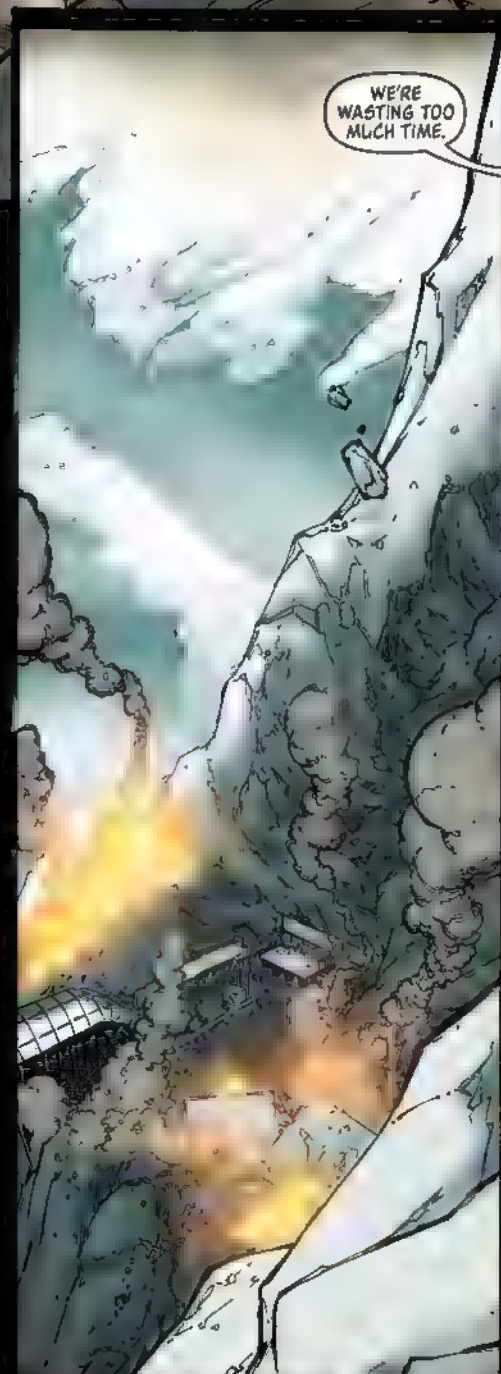
A BIT OF
OVERKILL... ISN'T
IT, MARQUESES?

WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO DO. BLOW UP
THE VERY PEOPLE WE
CAME TO RESCUE?

STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS
INDICATED THE LOWER LEVELS
COULD EASILY WITHSTAND THE
FORCE OF THE BLAST. ALL WE
DID WAS KNOCK OUT THEIR
COMMUNICATIONS.



TALIA, TAKE THE OTHERS AND MAKE YOUR WAY INSIDE. ROX AND I ARE GOING AFTER MAYLANDER.



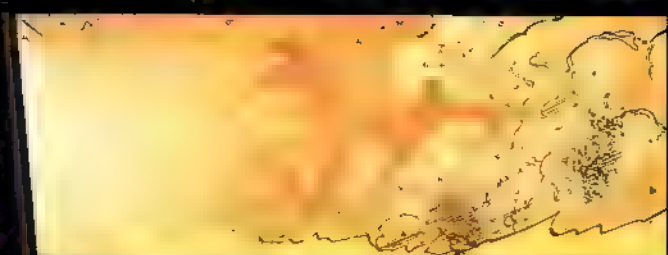
WE'RE WASTING TOO MUCH TIME.



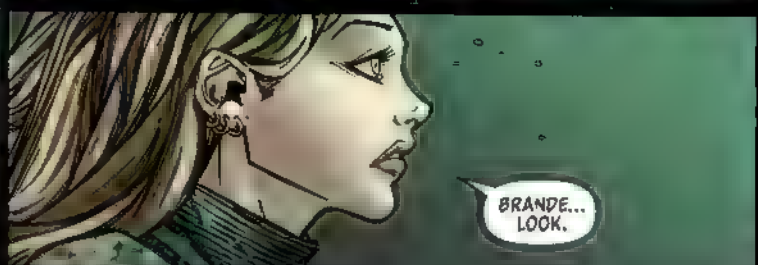
NOT FOR LONG.



THREE... TWO... ONE...



GO. WE'LL STAY HERE AND COVER THE EXIT.

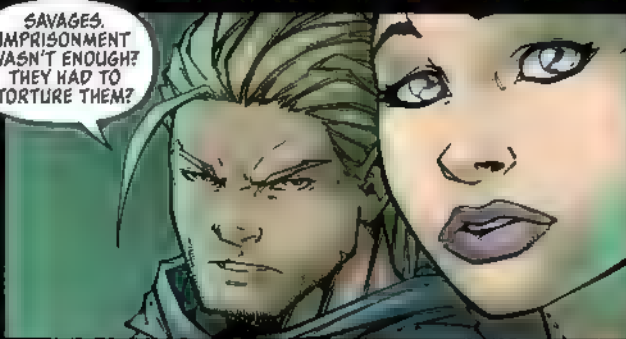


BRANDE... LOOK.



WHAT HAVE
THEY DONE?

SAVAGES.
IMPRISONMENT
WASN'T ENOUGH?
THEY HAD TO
TORTURE THEM?



NO. NOT
TORTURING.
STUDYING.



EXAMINING THEM.
NOTICE THE VARIETY
OF THE HOLDING
CHAMBERS.

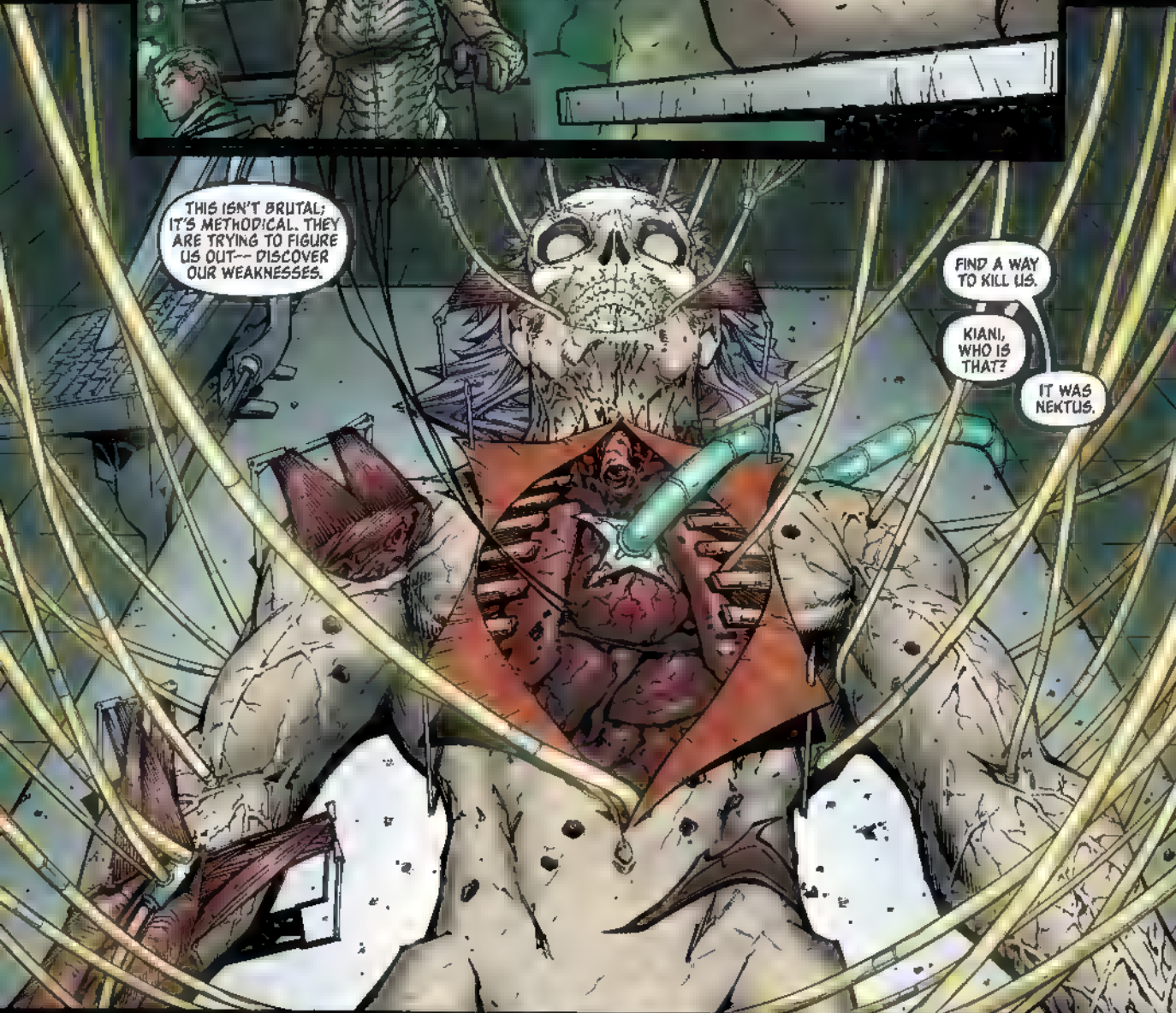


THIS ISN'T BRUTAL;
IT'S METHODOICAL. THEY
ARE TRYING TO FIGURE
US OUT-- DISCOVER
OUR WEAKNESSES.

FIND A WAY
TO KILL US.

KIANI,
WHO IS
THAT?

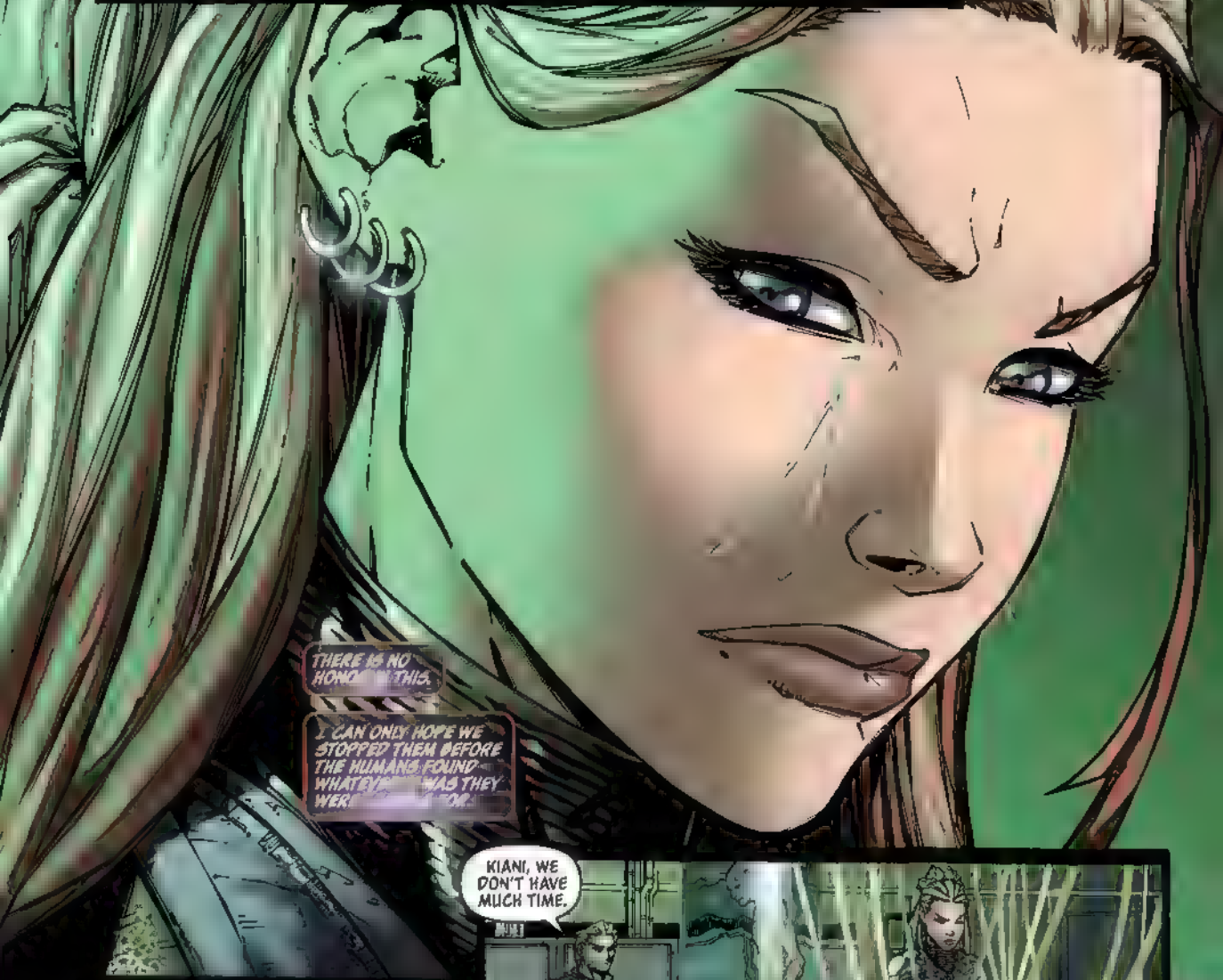
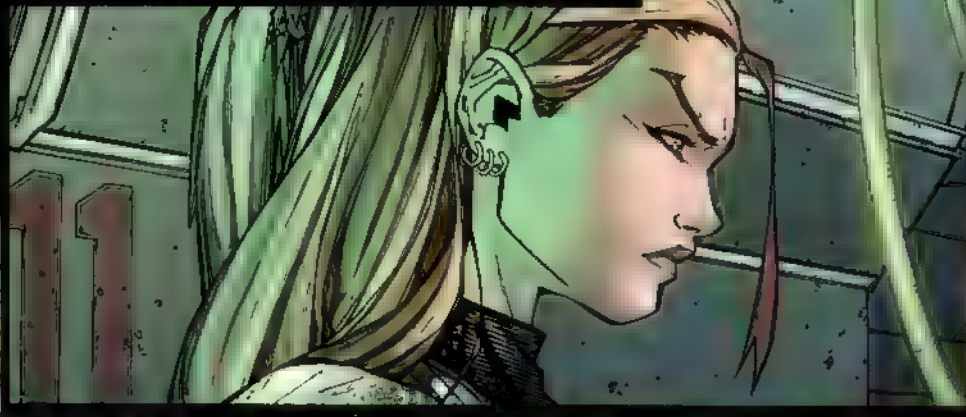
IT WAS
NEKTUS.





I UNDERSTAND THEIR OBJECTIVE.
IN MY TRAINING, CASQUE TAUGHT
ME THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING
MY ENEMIES AND WEAKENING THEIR
VULNERABILITIES.

BUT, IT IS ACHIEVED
THROUGH OBSERVATION,
NOT EXPERIMENTATION.



THERE IS NO
HONOR IN THIS.

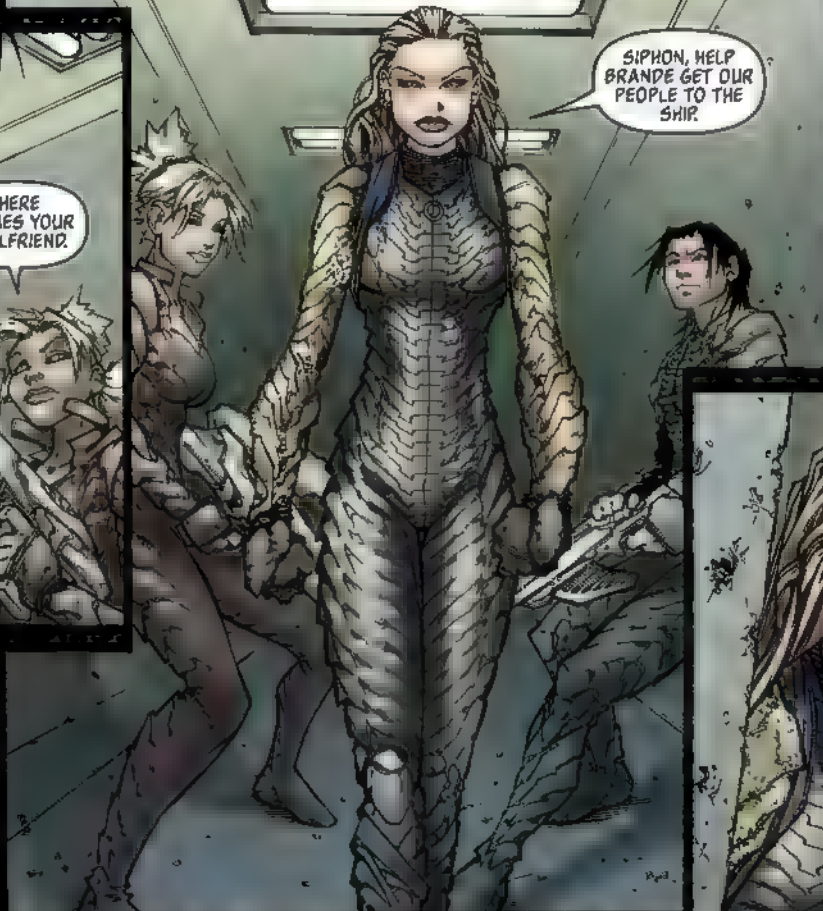
I CAN ONLY HOPE WE
STOPPED THEM BEFORE
THE HUMANS FOUND
WHAT EVER THEY WERE
LOOKING FOR.

KIANI, WE
DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME.





HERE COMES YOUR GIRLFRIEND.



SIPHON, HELP BRANDE GET OUR PEOPLE TO THE SHIP.



IS IT CLEAR?



YOU COULD SAY THAT.

CASQUE IS BEHIND THAT DOOR, ISN'T HE?

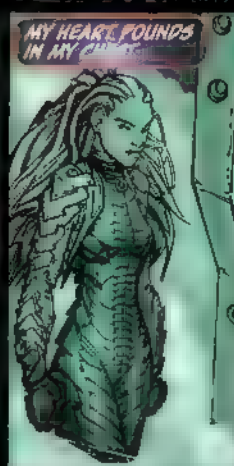


YES.

MARQUESES SAID WE SHOULD WAIT OUT HERE.



HE'S RIGHT. YOU SHOULD.



MY HEART POUNDS IN MY CHEST.



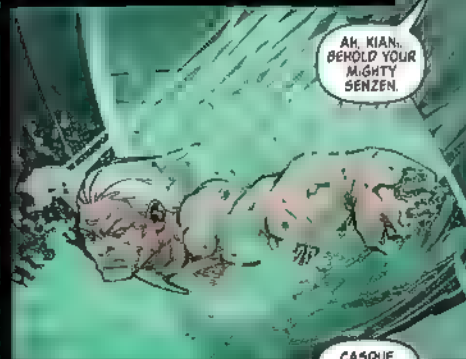


...UP UNTIL THE
FONTAIN... HANG!

I HAVE TO GIVE
MAYLANDER A BIT MORE
CREDIT THAN I THOUGHT IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT HE
REALIZED EXACTLY WHAT
HE HAD IN CASQUE.

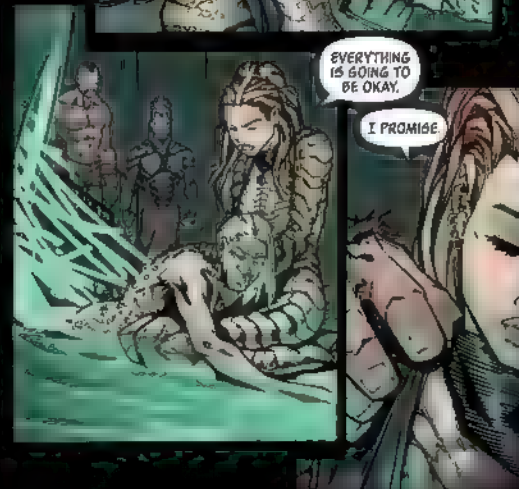
NO
MATTER.

LOOK WHO'S
HERE.



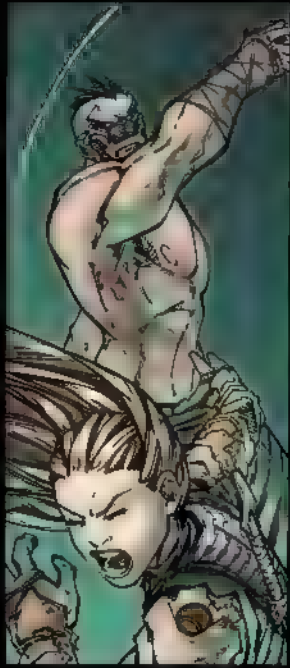
AH, KIAN.
BEHOLD YOUR
MIGHTY
SENZEN.

CASQUE
CASQUE, I'M
HERE.



EVERYTHING
IS GOING TO
BE OKAY.

I PROMISE



SORRY TO CUT THIS REUNION SHORT, BUT CASQUE AND I HAVE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS.

MARQUESES, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

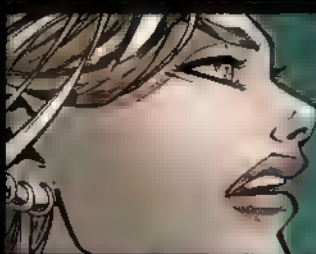


OH, COME NOW KIANI. YOU ARE SMARTER THAN THAT, AREN'T YOU?



THIS WAS YOUR GOAL ALL ALONG. YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE OTHERS. YOU JUST WANTED CASQUE.

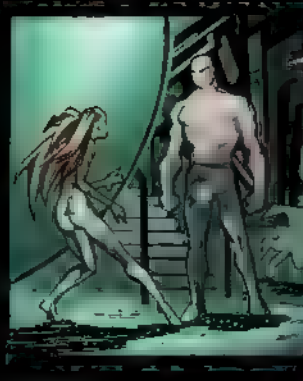
GET BACK HERE!



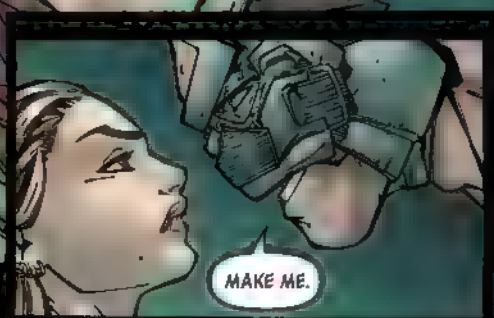
YOU AND ME GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

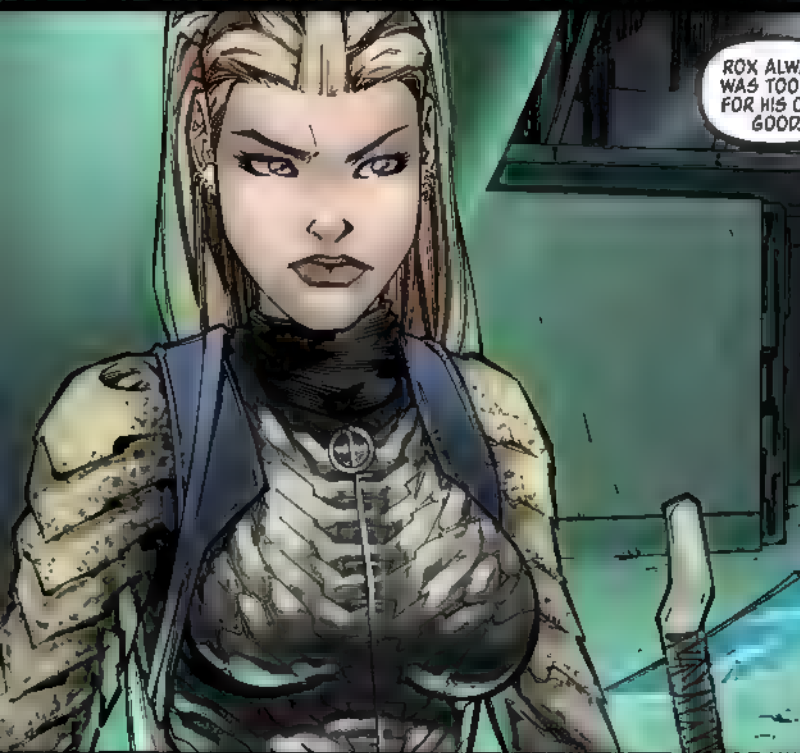
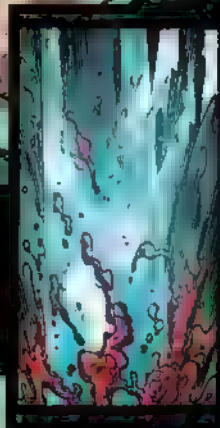
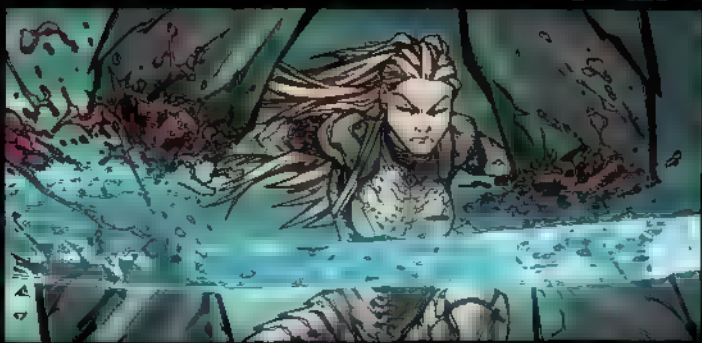
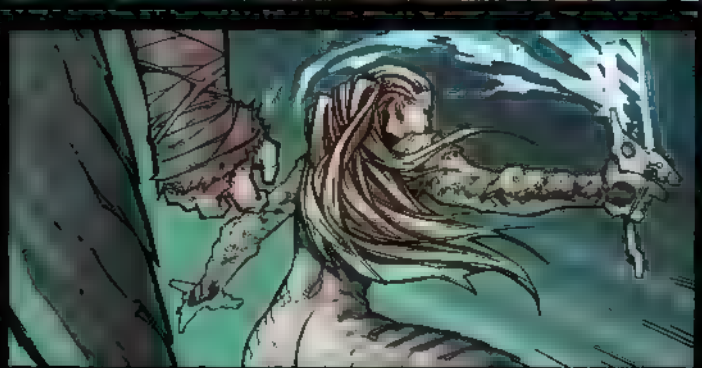
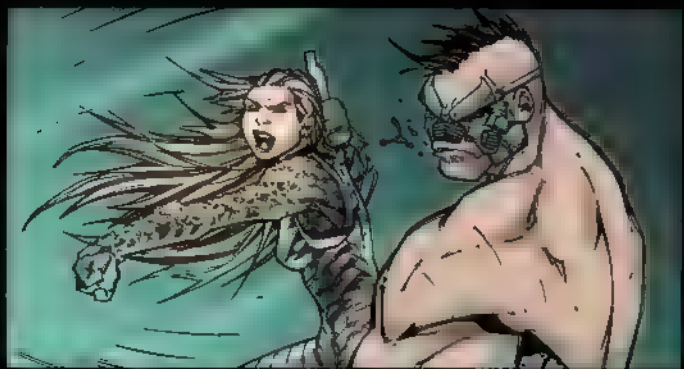
HOLD UP GIRLIE

GET OUT OF MY WAY ROX.



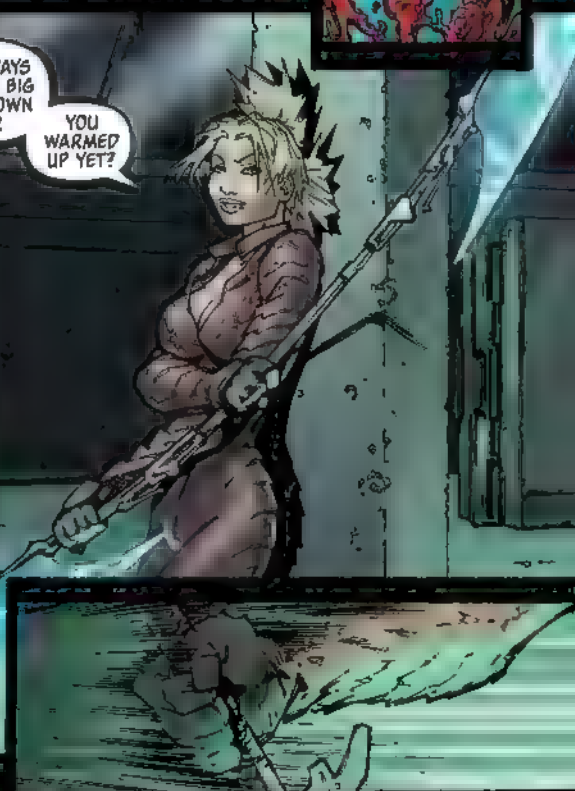
MAKE ME.

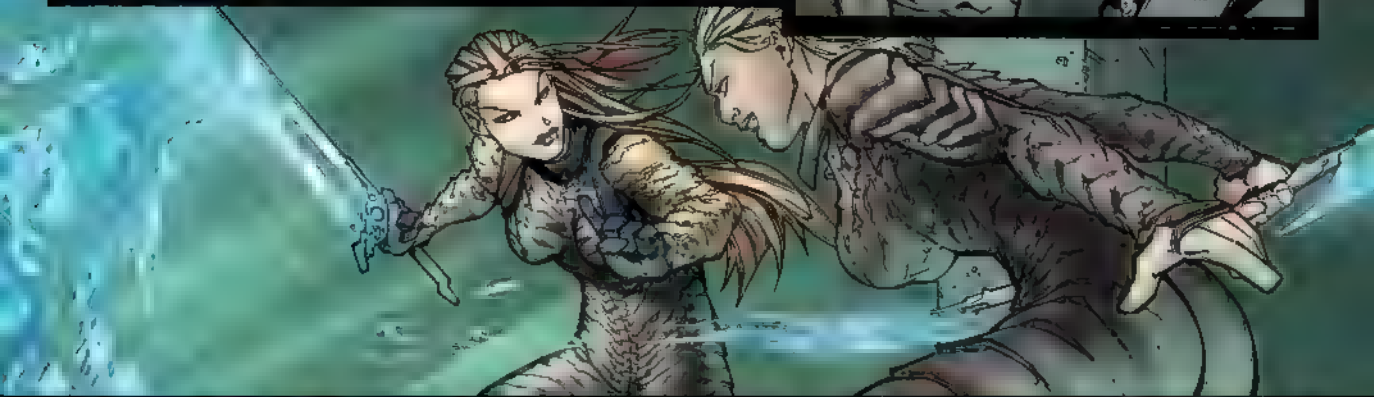
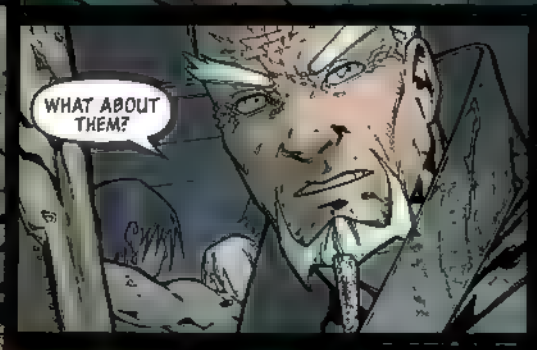
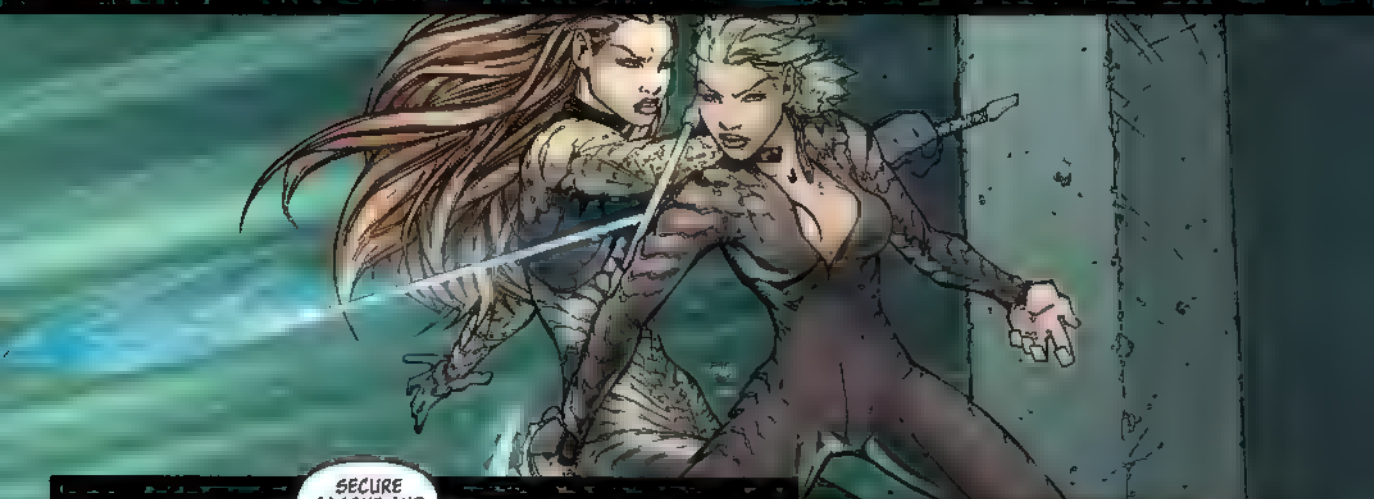
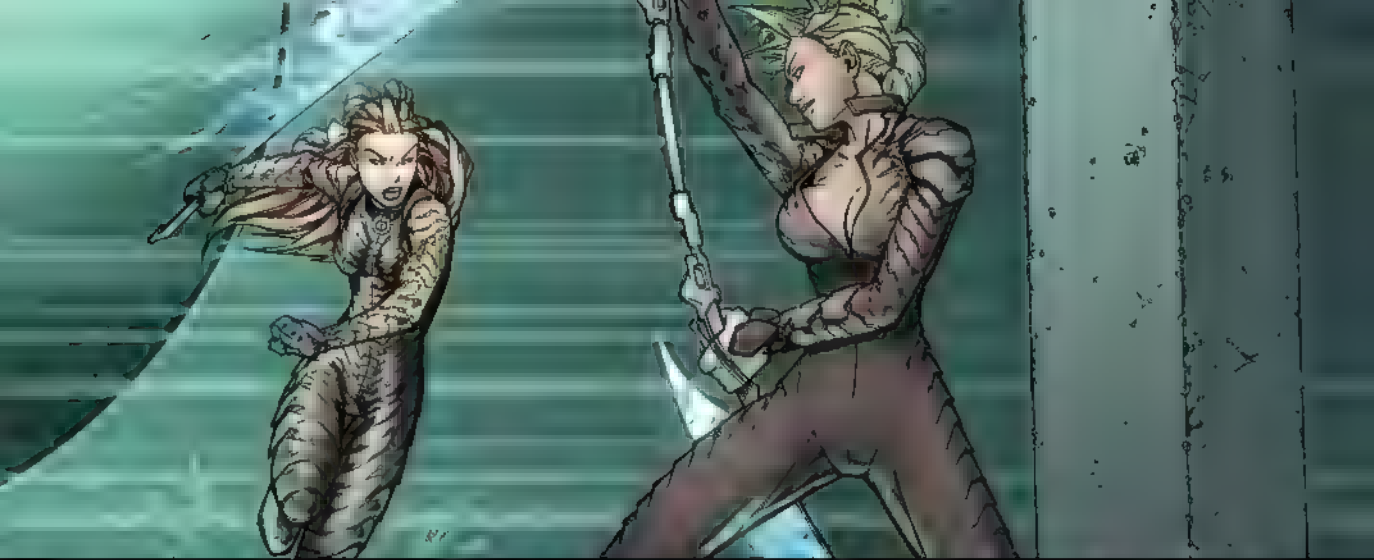




ROX ALWAYS
WAS TOO BIG
FOR HIS OWN
GOOD.

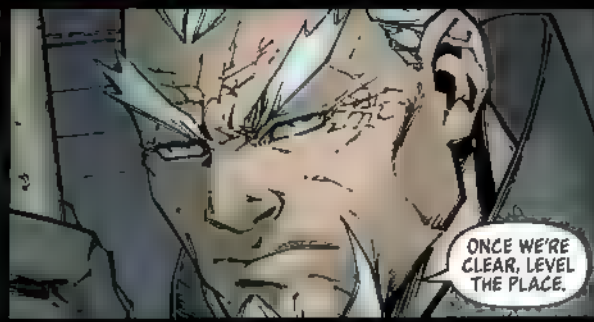
YOU
WARMED
UP YET?



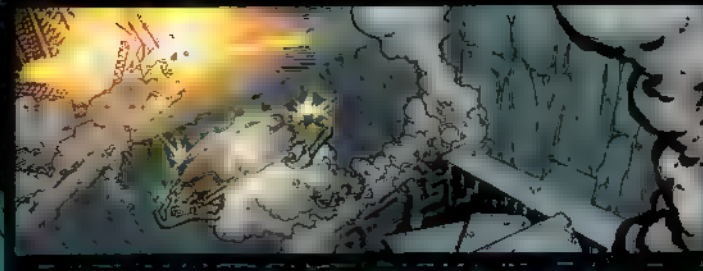




THE SHIP
IS LEAVING.
MARQUESES...
I KNEW IT!



ONCE WE'RE
CLEAR, LEVEL
THE PLACE.



WHERE'S
KIAN?

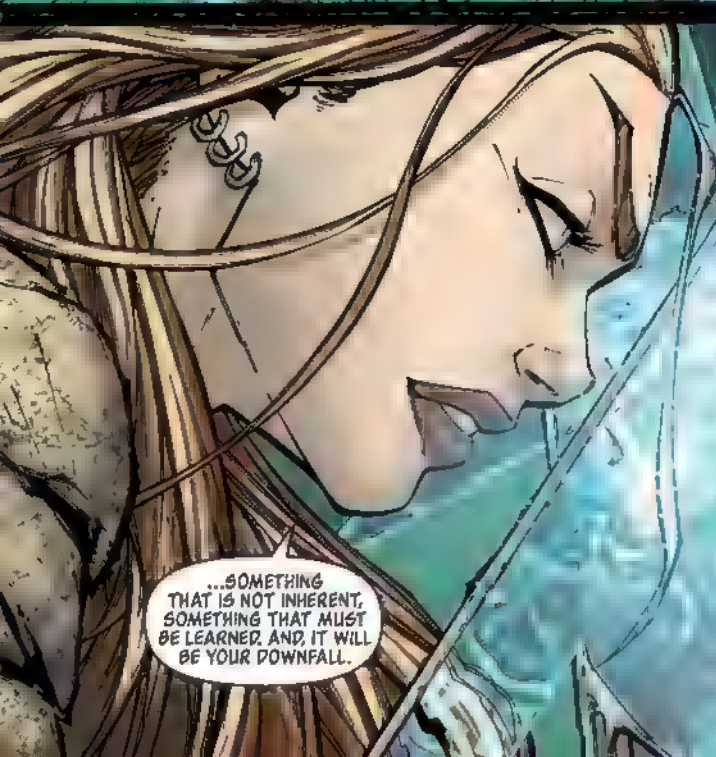
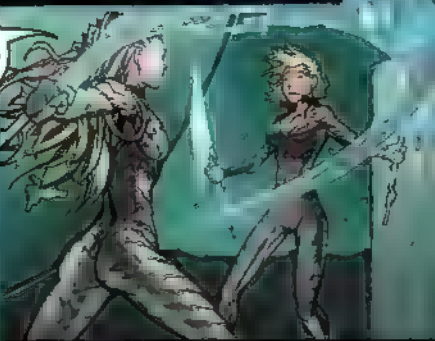


TALIA, YOU REMIND
ME OF MYSELF. NATURAL
ABILITY COUPLED WITH
TEMPERED RAGE.

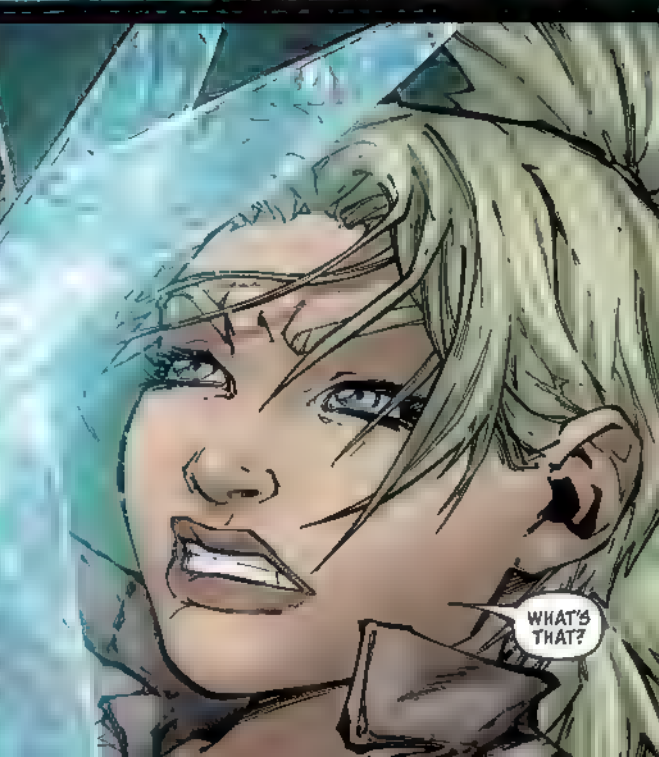


AM I SUPPOSED
TO BE FLATTERED?
YOU JUST SOUND
SCARED.

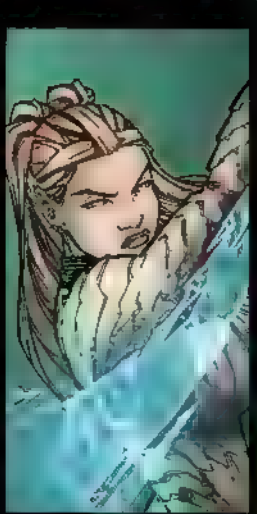
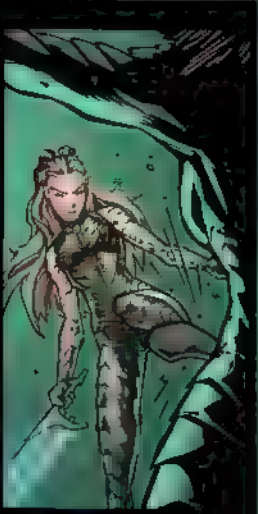
BUT, THERE
IS SOMETHING
YOU LACK...



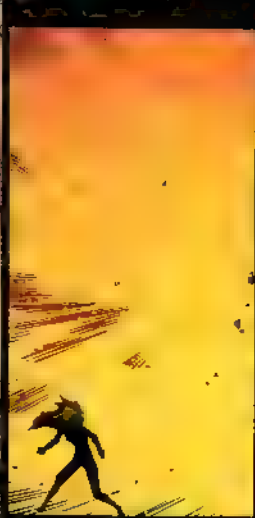
...SOMETHING
THAT IS NOT INHERENT,
SOMETHING THAT MUST
BE LEARNED, AND IT WILL
BE YOUR DOWNFALL.



WHAT'S
THAT?



DISCIPLINE.



DAMN YOU, MARQUESES.

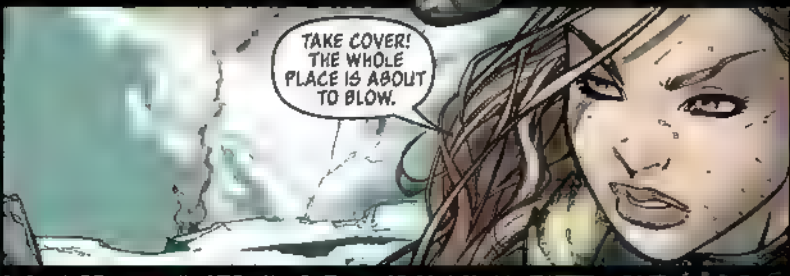


THIS WILL
HELP KIANI FIND
US IN ALL THIS
RUBBLE.

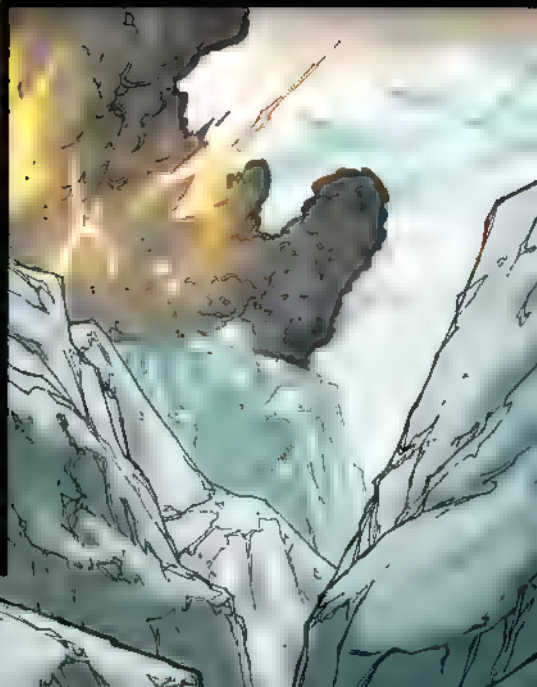
PROVIDED
SHE IS STILL
ALIVE.

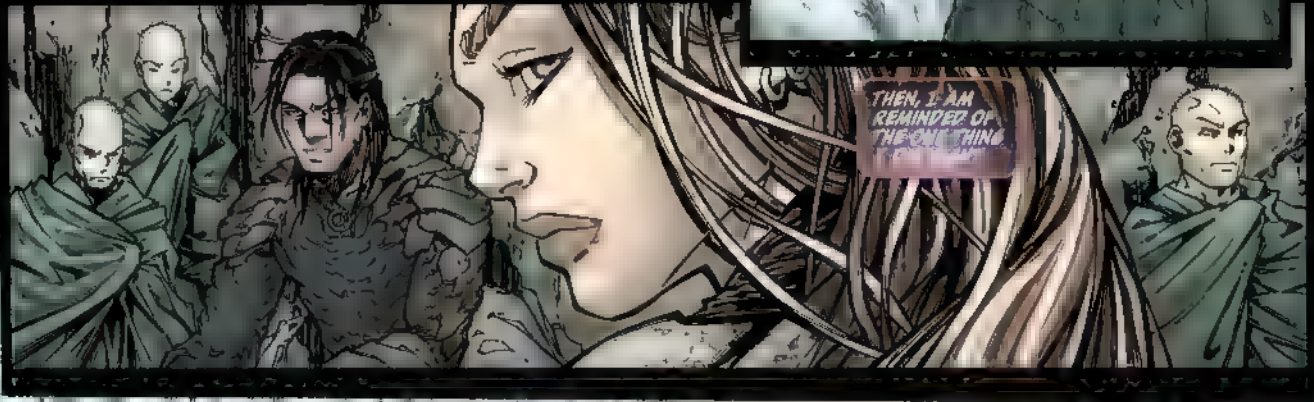
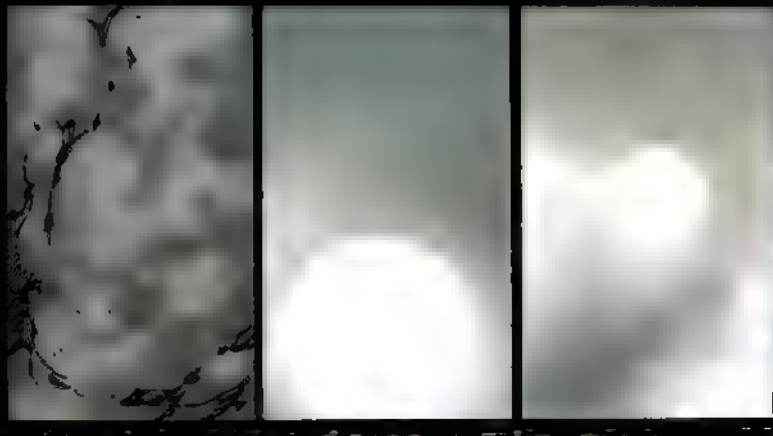


THERE
SHE IS!



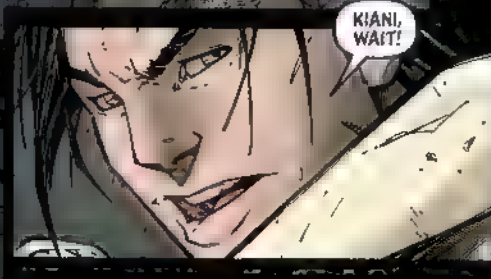
TAKE COVER!
THE WHOLE
PLACE IS ABOUT
TO BLOW.







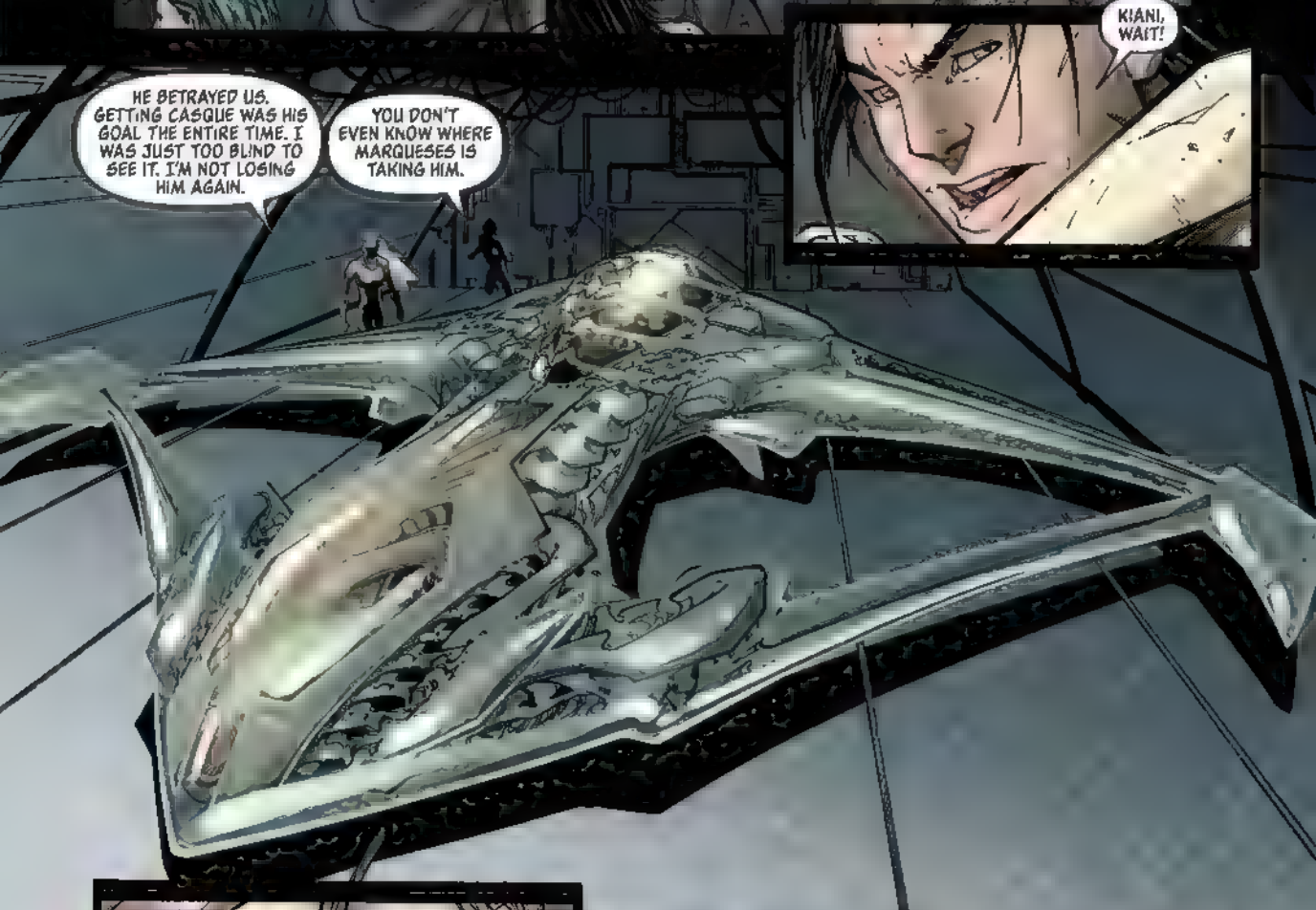
STAY WITH THEM.
I'M GOING AFTER
MARQUESES.

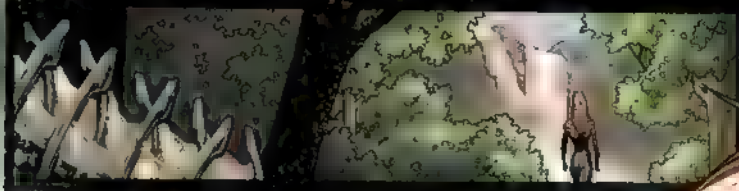
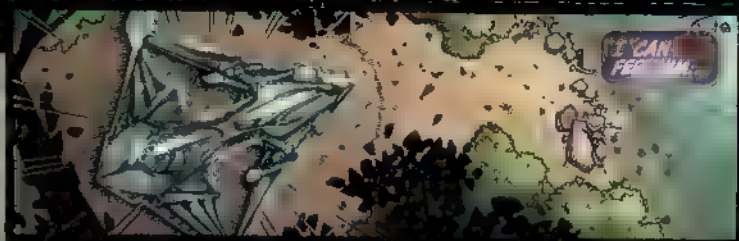
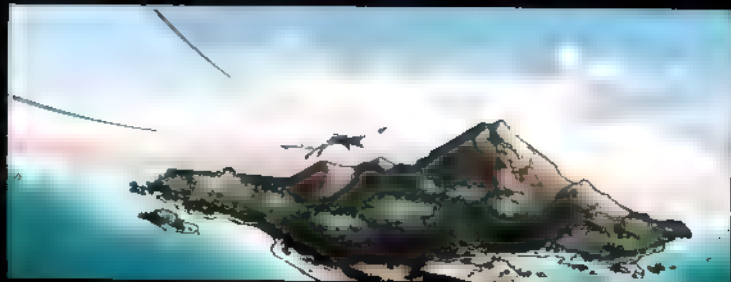


KIANI,
WAIT!

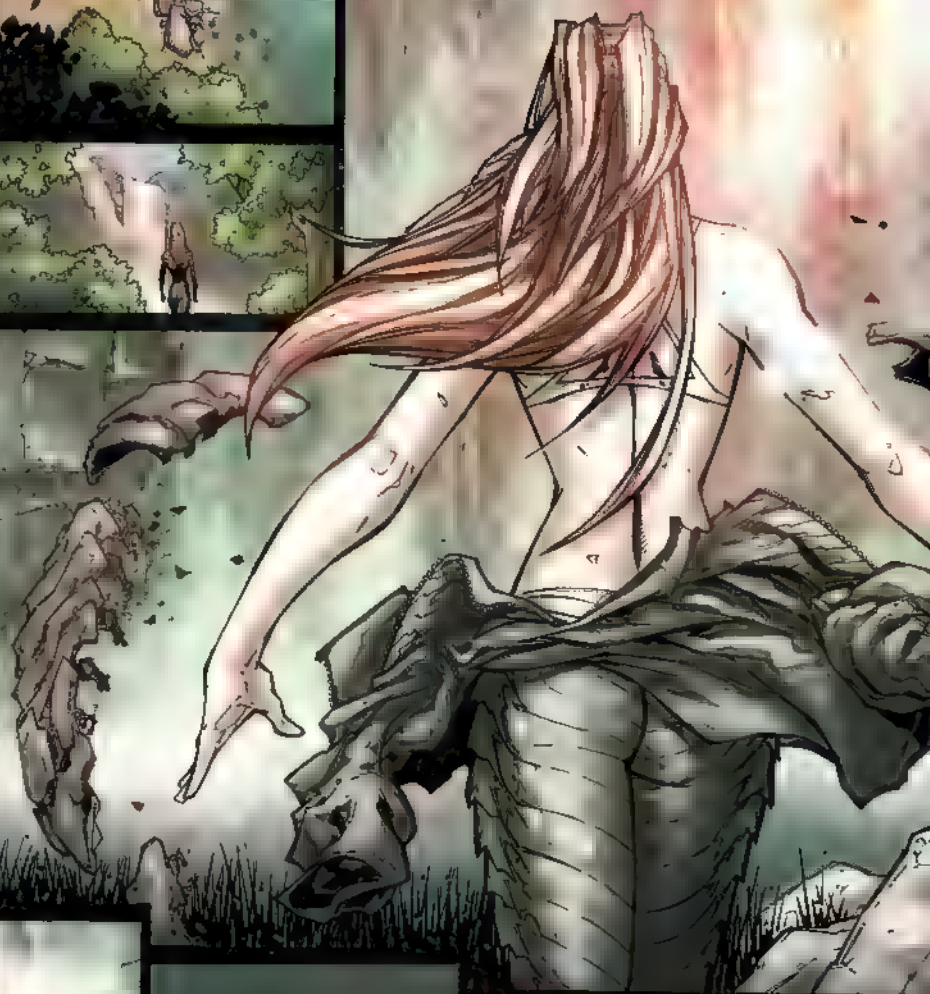
HE BETRAYED US.
GETTING CASQUE WAS HIS
GOAL THE ENTIRE TIME. I
WAS JUST TOO BLIND TO
SEE IT. I'M NOT LOSING
HIM AGAIN.

YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHERE
MARQUESES IS
TAKING HIM.

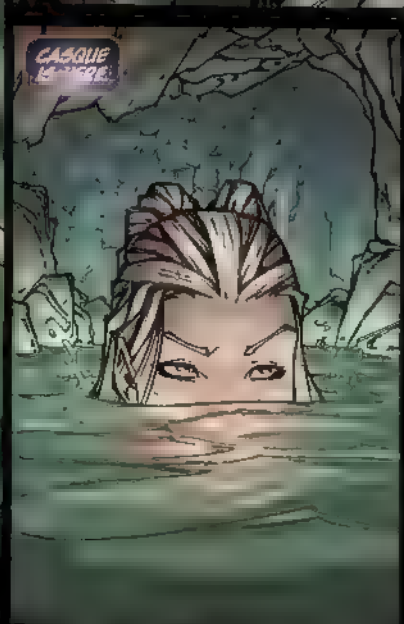




STRONGER
NOW



LIKE AN
EXTENSION
OF MYSELF



CASQUE
LONGER



OKAY, MARQUESES
YOU HAD YOUR
SHIRT

NOW IT'S
MY TURN.

TO BE
CONCLUDED...



MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM
DAWN OF WAR

#**3**

OF 3
COVER A



Fathom Created by
Michael Turner

Issue Three of Three

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM DAWN of WAR

J.T. KRUL, TALENT CALDWELL & MICHAEL TURNER

story

TALENT CALDWELL

pencils

JASON GORDER

inks

CHRISTINA STRAIN

colors

DREAMER DESIGN

letters

Digital Artists: FRANK MASTROMAURO, VINCE HERNANDEZ | Design and Production: JOSH REED, MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD | Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN

Editor: MICHAEL TURNER | President: FRANK MASTROMAURO | Vice President: PETER STEIGERWALD | Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ | Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED
Marketing Assistant: STEPHANIE MATSON | Production Assistant: CHAE RIGGS | AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUFF | Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM™, DAWN OF WAR Vol. 1 Issue 3

JANUARY 2014 DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc., Office of Publication, 1855 Green Valley Circle, Suite 100, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT Inc. logo is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Fathom™ and the Fathom logo are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK: ASPENTIME](https://www.facebook.com/aspentime)

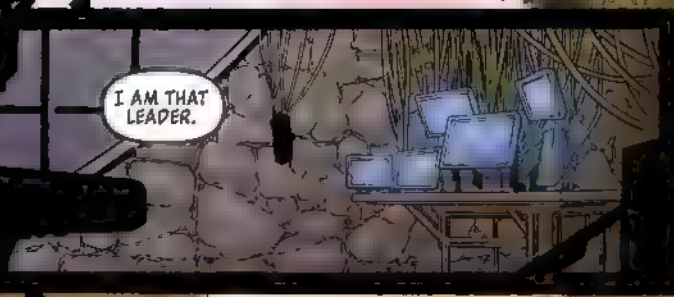
YOUTUBE: [YOUTUBE: ASPENTIME](https://www.youtube.com/aspentime)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO:
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

1-800-COMICBOOK



WE ARE LIVING IN
DIRE TIMES. OUR
PEOPLE NEED A LEADER
STRONG ENOUGH TO
MAKE THE NECESSARY
SACRIFICES IN ORDER
TO SURVIVE.



I AM THAT
LEADER.



TO DEFEAT THE
BLACK, I AM
PREPARED TO DO
WHATEVER IS
REQUIRED.



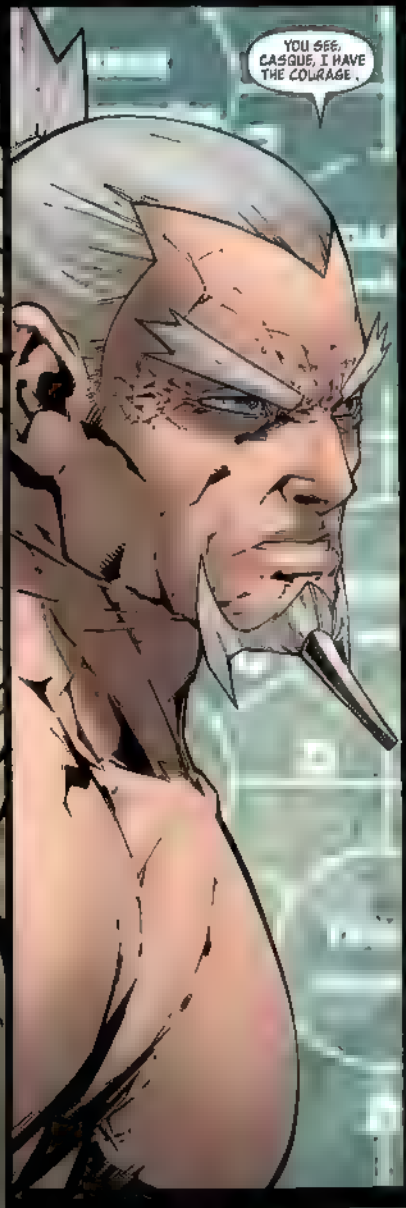
HAVING
POWER IS NOT
ENOUGH.



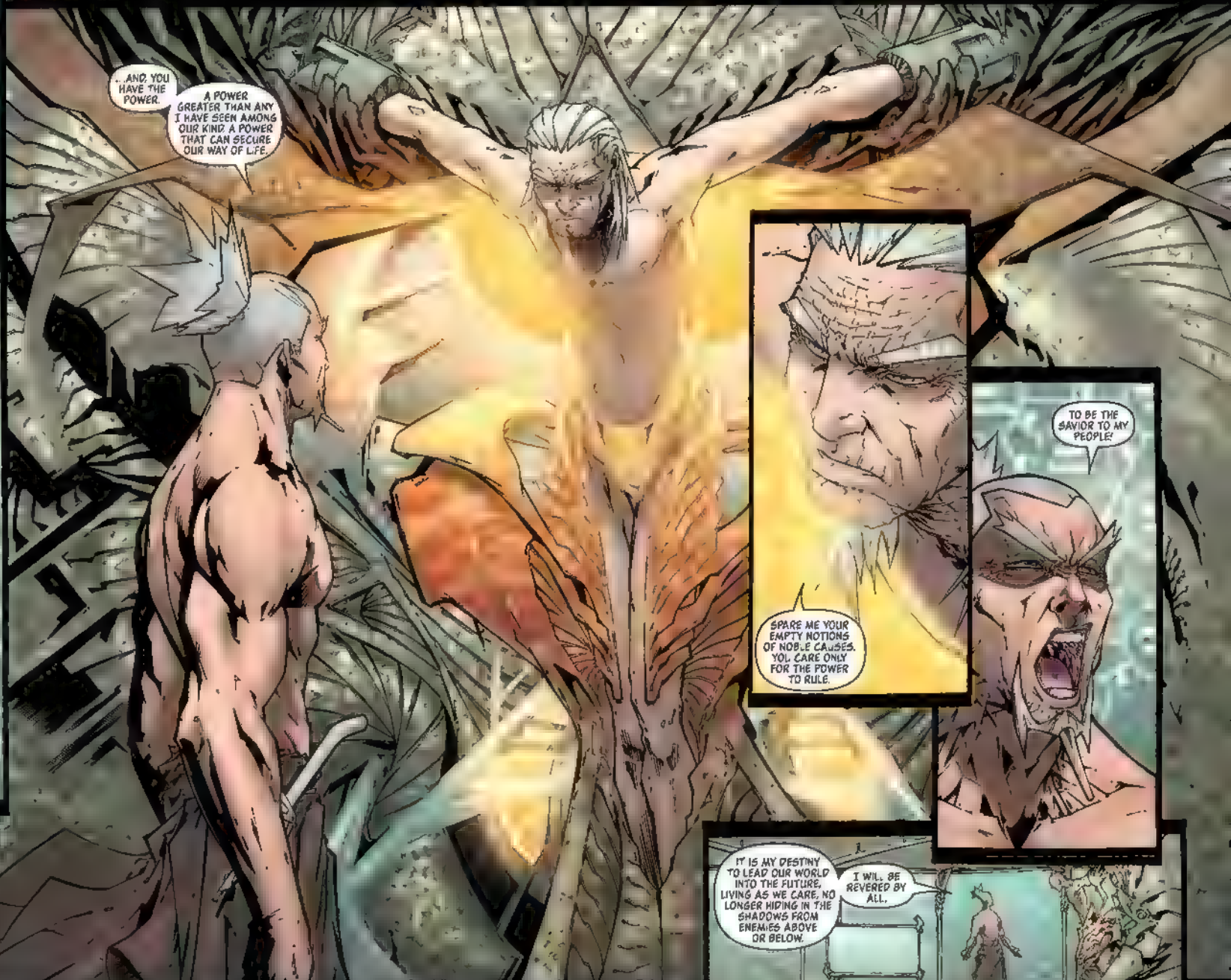
WE NEED THE
COURAGE TO USE
THAT POWER.



TOGETHER,
YOU AND I WILL
CRUSH OUR
ENEMIES.



YOU SEE, CASQUE, I HAVE THE COURAGE.

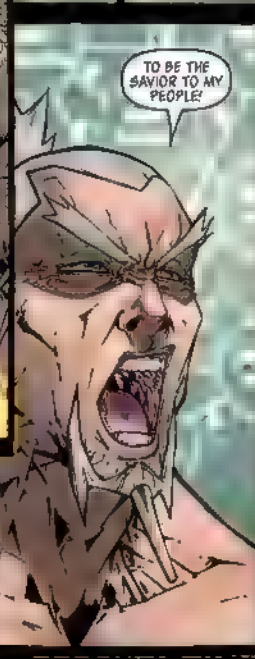


AND YOU HAVE THE POWER.

A POWER GREATER THAN ANY I HAVE SEEN AMONG OUR KIND. A POWER THAT CAN SECURE OUR WAY OF LIFE.



SPARE ME YOUR EMPTY NOTIONS OF NOBLE CAUSES. YOU CARE ONLY FOR THE POWER TO RULE.

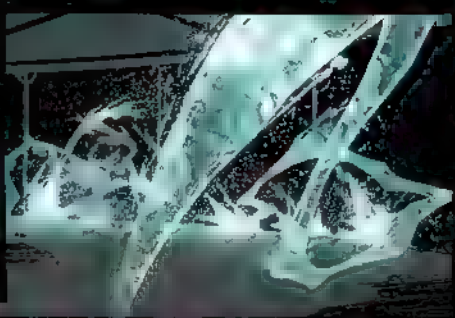
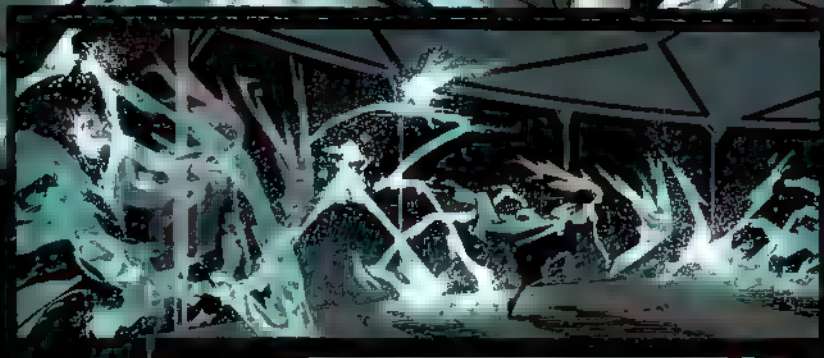


TO BE THE SAVIOR TO MY PEOPLE?



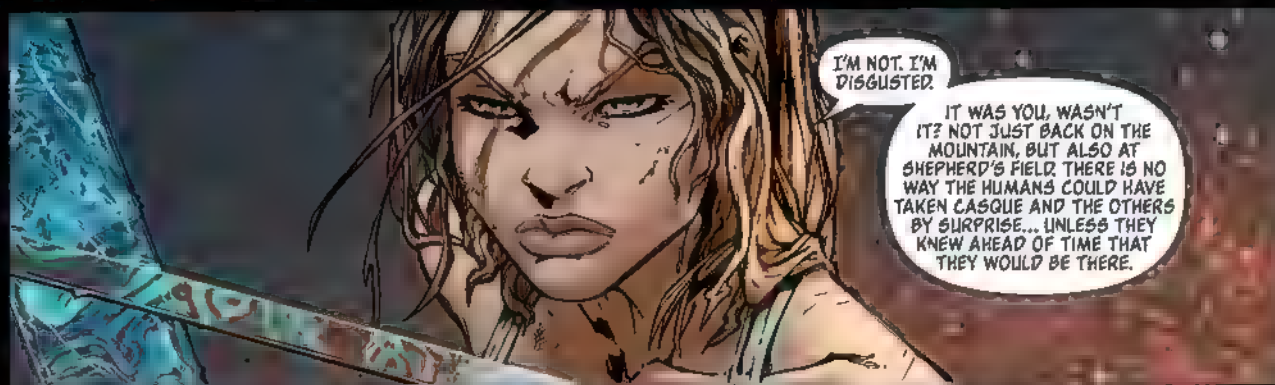
IT IS MY DESTINY TO LEAD OUR WORLD INTO THE FUTURE, LIVING AS WE CARE, NO LONGER HIDING IN THE SHADOWS FROM ENEMIES ABOVE OR BELOW.

I WILL BE REVERED BY ALL.



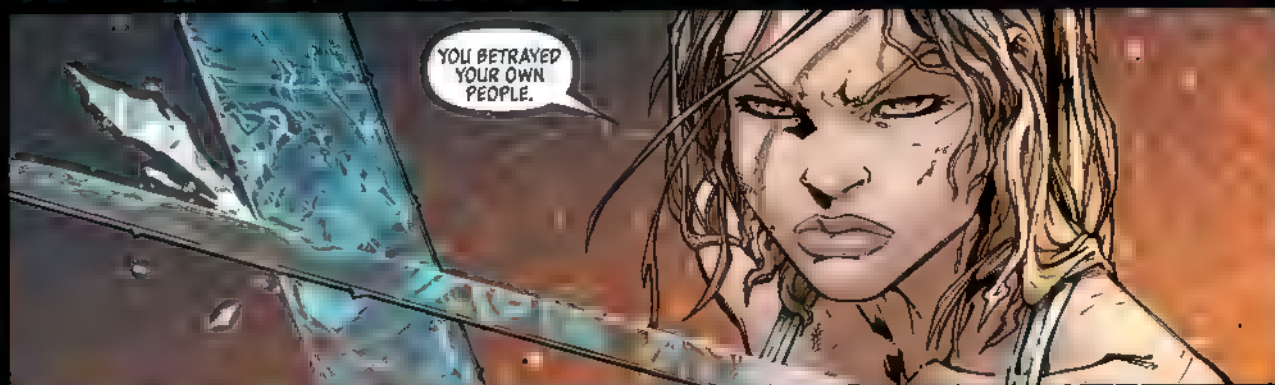


SUCH
DEDICATION,
SUCH RESILIENCE.
I'M IMPRESSED.



I'M NOT. I'M
DISGUSTED.

IT WAS YOU. WASN'T
IT? NOT JUST BACK ON THE
MOUNTAIN, BUT ALSO AT
SHEPHERD'S FIELD. THERE IS NO
WAY THE HUMANS COULD HAVE
TAKEN CASQUE AND THE OTHERS
BY SURPRISE... UNLESS THEY
KNEW AHEAD OF TIME THAT
THEY WOULD BE THERE.



YOU BETRAYED
YOUR OWN
PEOPLE.



NO. IT WAS A
CALCULATED SACRIFICE
HANDING A SELECT FEW
OVER TO MAYLANDER SO
THAT I COULD HAVE CASQUE.
HE IS THE ONE WHO
BETRAYED HIS PEOPLE,
WHEN HE REFUSED TO
STAND BY MY SIDE.

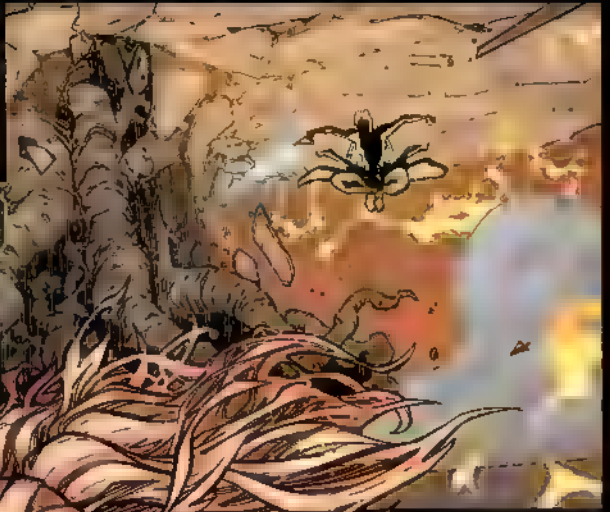


AND NOW AFTER ALL
MY EFFORTS, CASQUE
HAS SLIPPED AWAY WHILE
YOU AND I STAND HERE AS
THIS BUILDING CRASHES
DOWN UPON US. ARE WE
BOTH TO DIE?

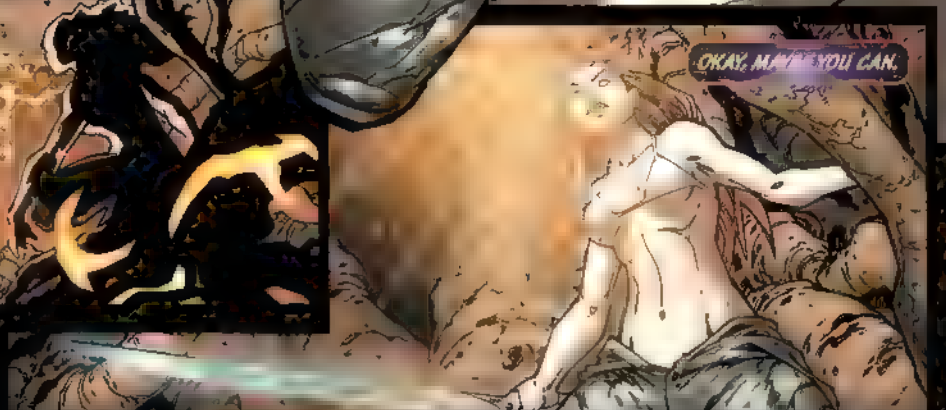
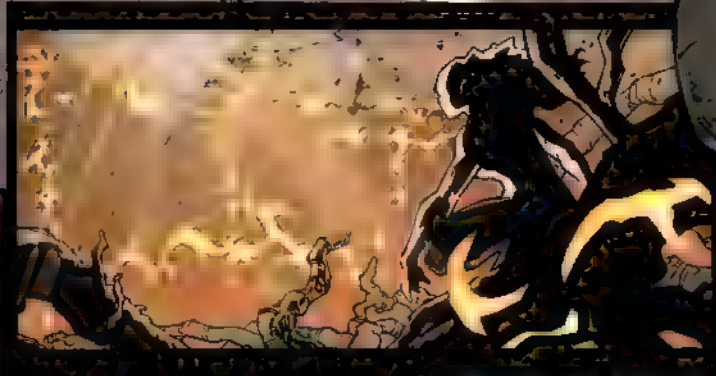
NO...
JUST YOU.



THAT'S IT, KIAN! KEEP FOLLOWING ME.



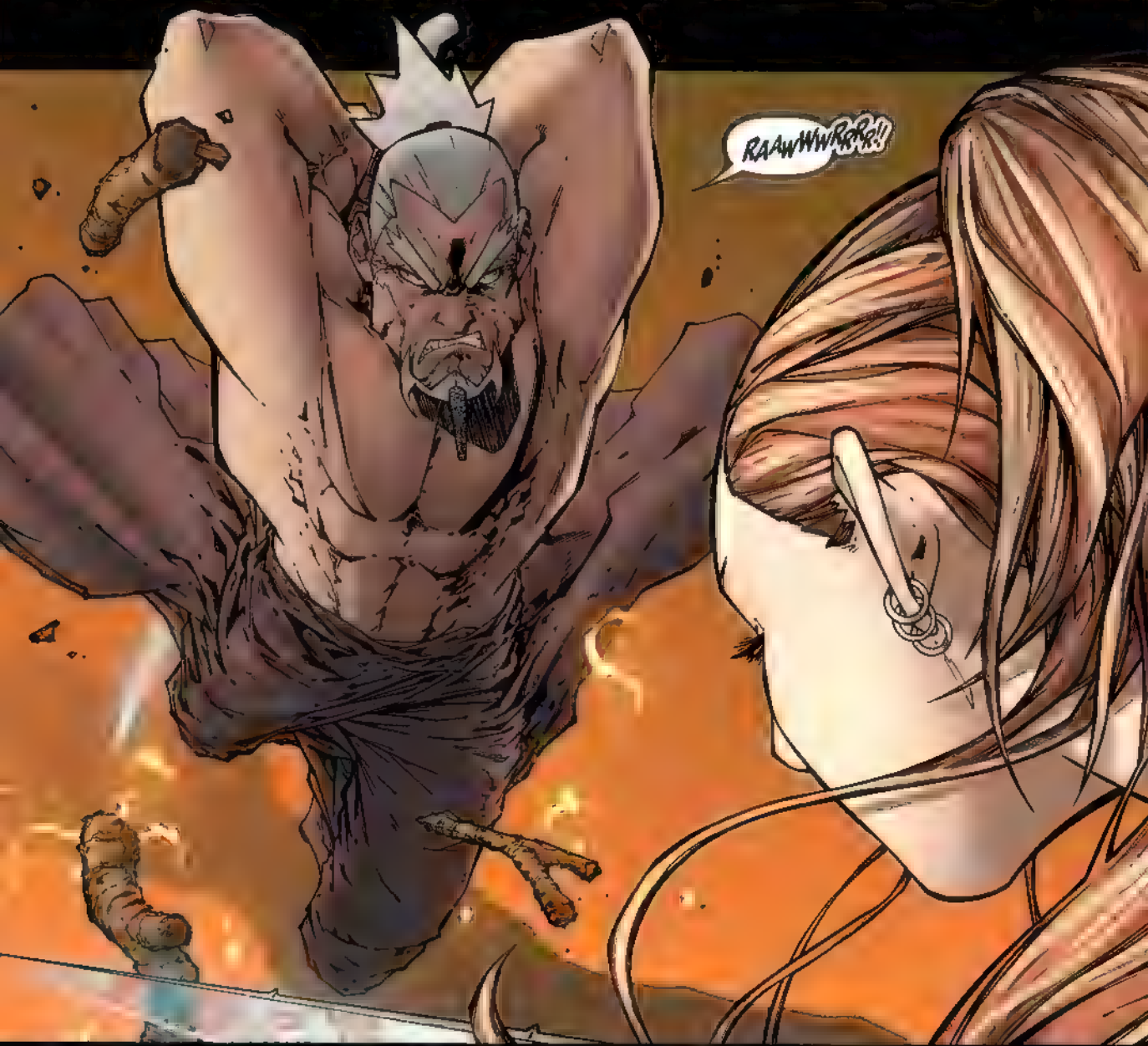
YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE.



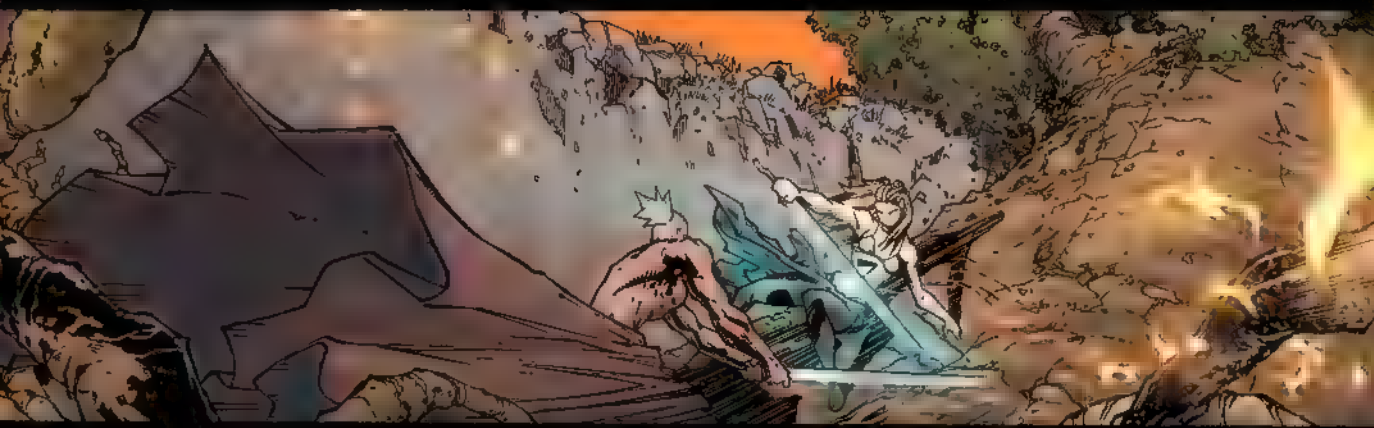
OKAY, MAYBE YOU CAN.

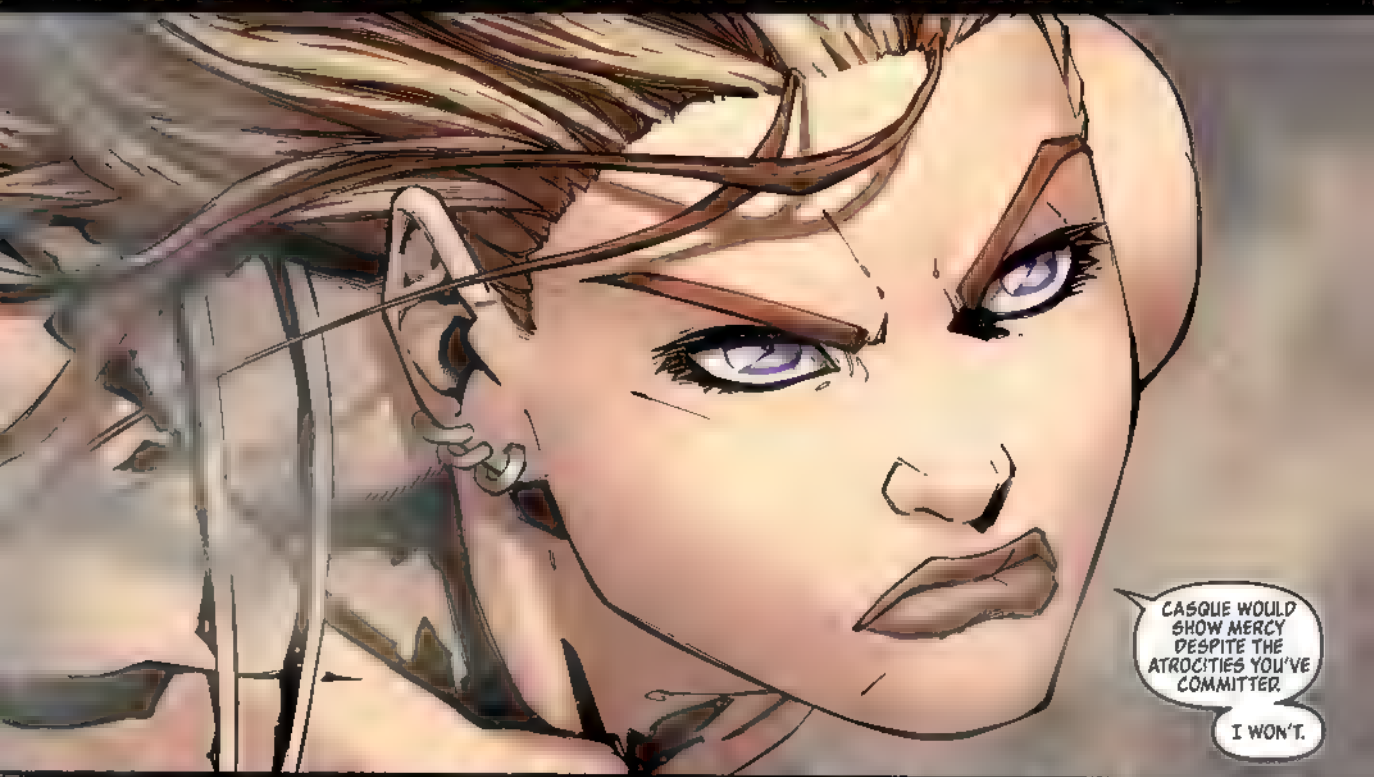
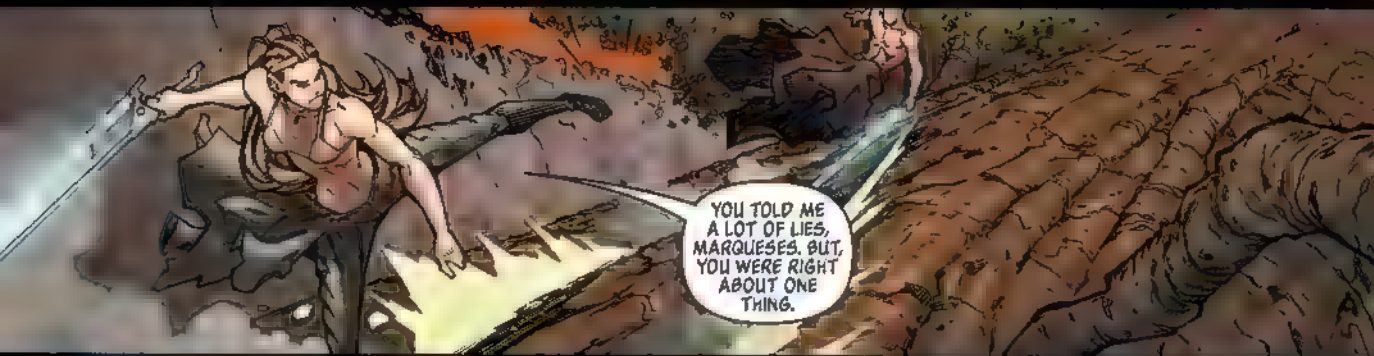
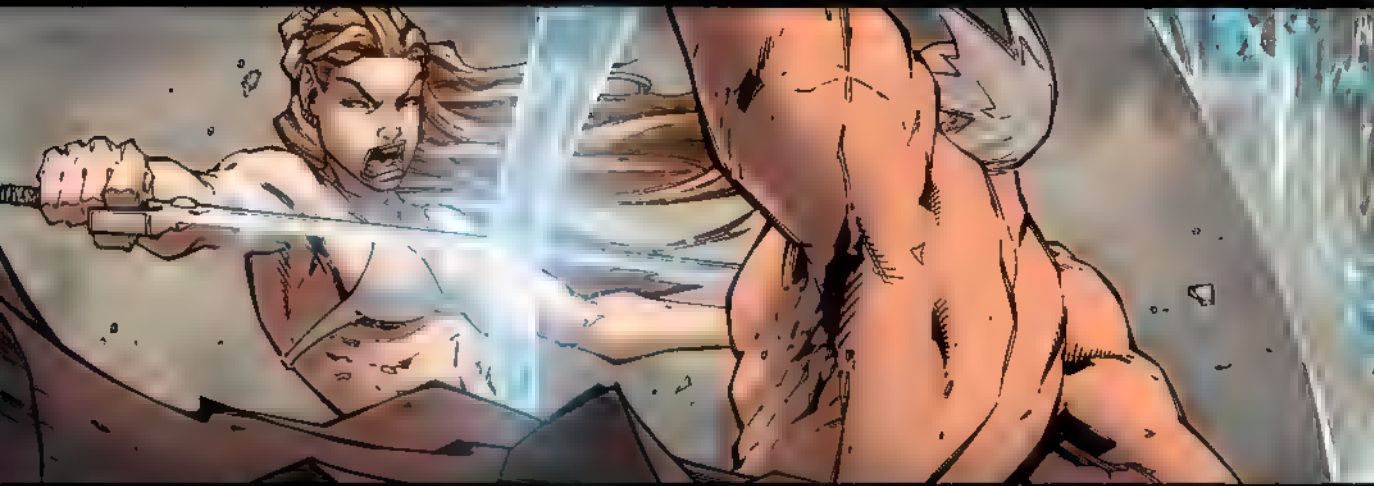


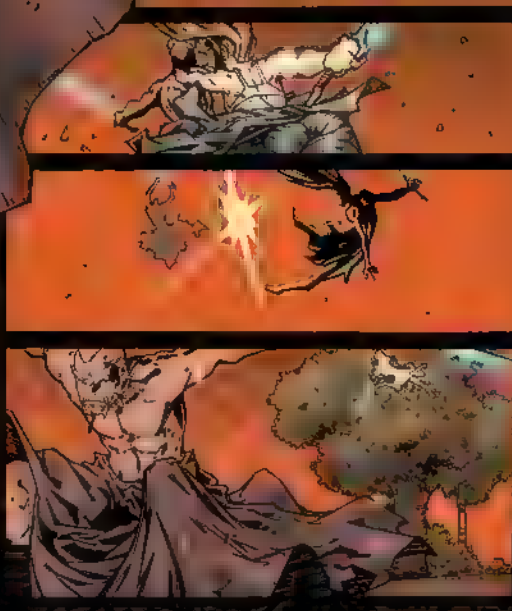
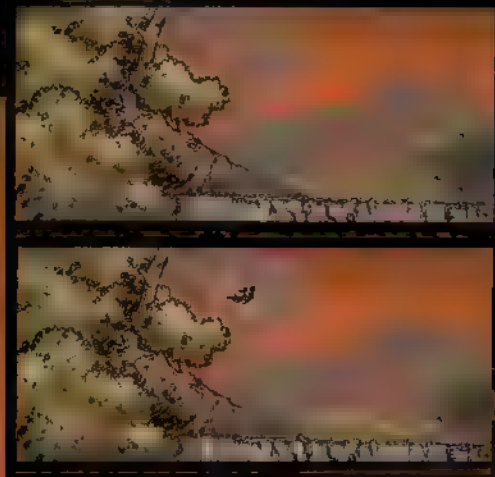
SENSE HIM
ALMOST TOO LATE

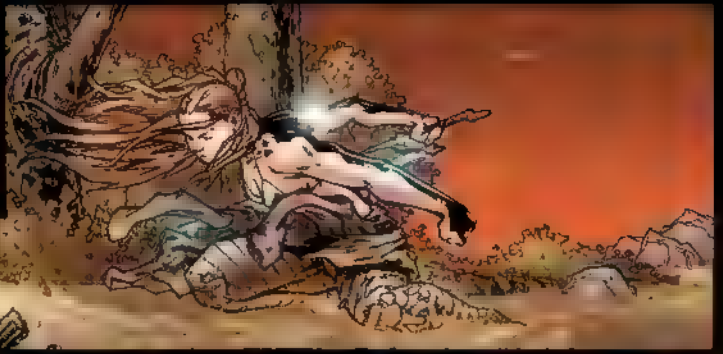


RAAWWWRR!!









I NEED TO BE CAREFUL.

HE IS STRONGER
THAN HE APPEARS.

I WISH YOU COULD
SEE THE BIGGER
PICTURE, KIANI. WE
ARE TRULY ALLIES IN
THE GRAND SCHEME
OF THINGS.

YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW THE
MEANING OF THE
WORD.

DON'T BE FOOLISH.
YOU'VE SEEN FIRSTHAND
HOW FAR I AM WILLING TO
GO FOR WHAT I BELIEVE
IS OUR ONLY CHANCE
FOR SURVIVAL.

DO YOU REALLY
THINK I WOULD
HESITATE FOR A
MOMENT TO KILL
YOU IF NEEDED?

AS YOU MAY HAVE
ALREADY DISCOVERED,
TRYING TO KILL ME AND
ACTUALLY KILLING ME
ARE TWO VERY
DIFFERENT THINGS.

WE SHALL
SEE.

SHE MUST BE
STOPPED.

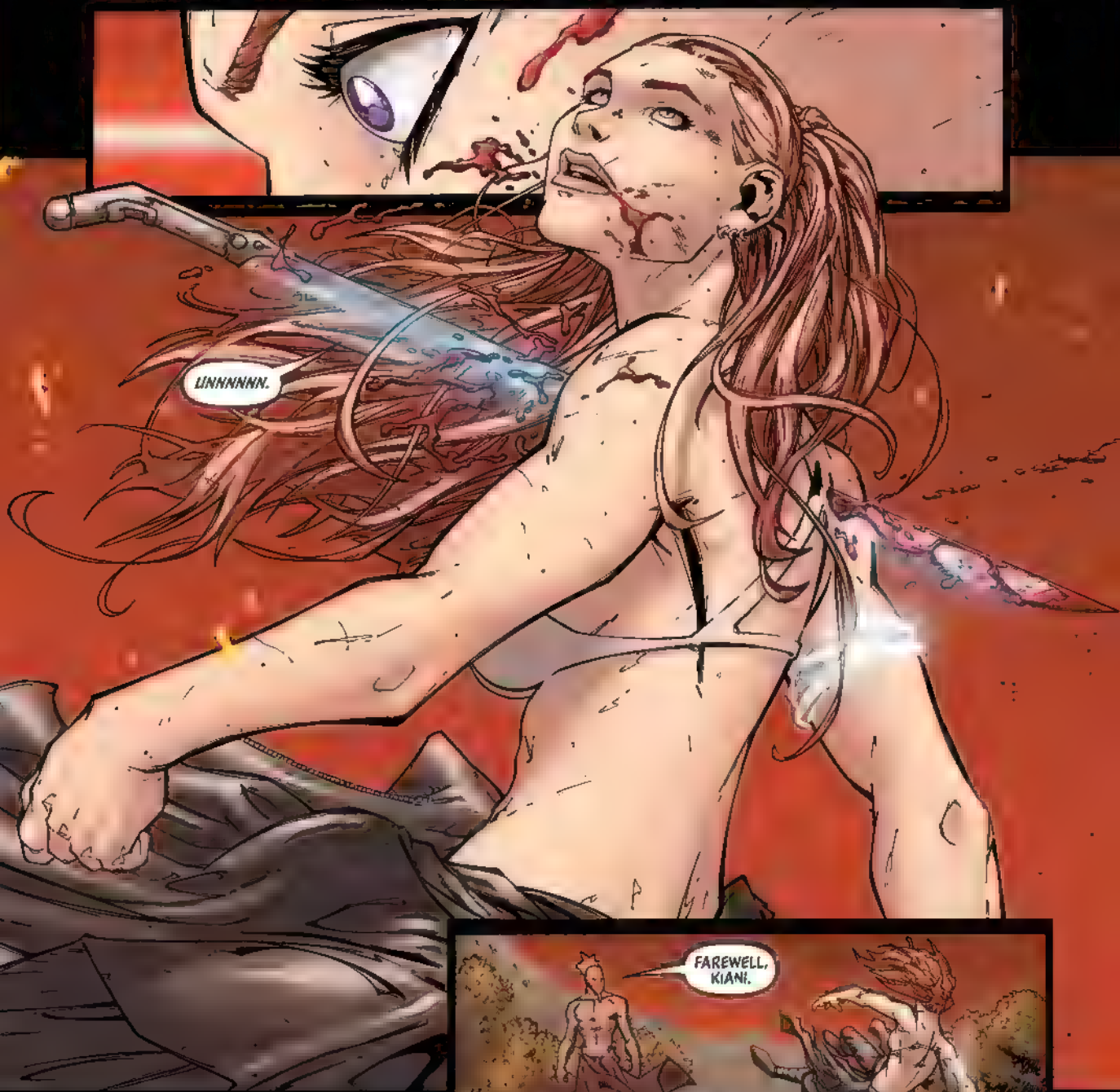
HE MUST BE
STOPPED.

TOO MANY LIVES HAVE
ALREADY BEEN LOST.

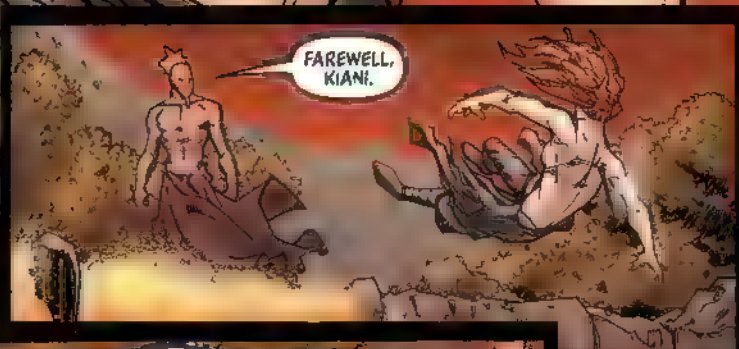
TOO MANY LIVES HAVE
ALREADY BEEN LOST.

ENOUGH.

NOW.



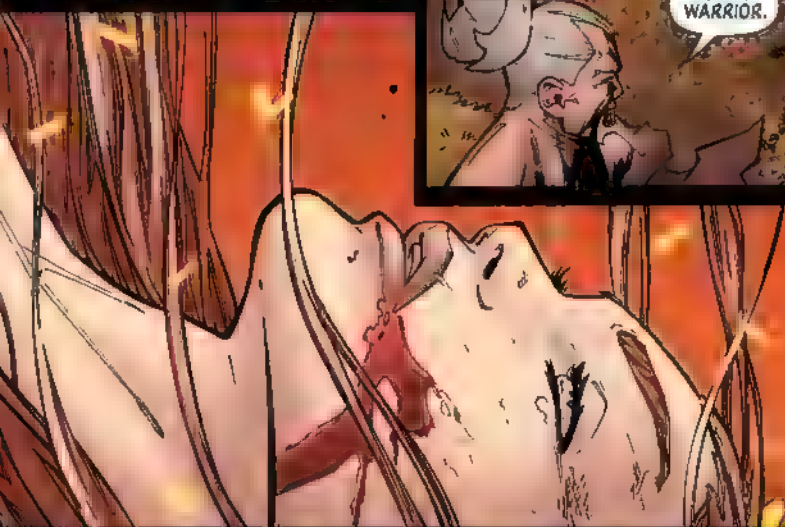
UHHHHHHH.



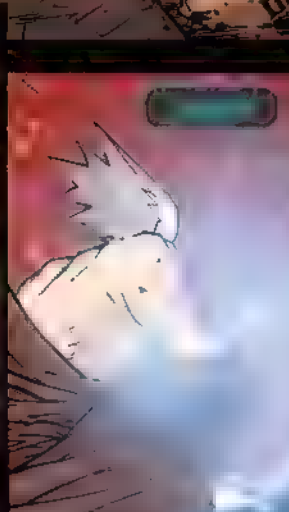
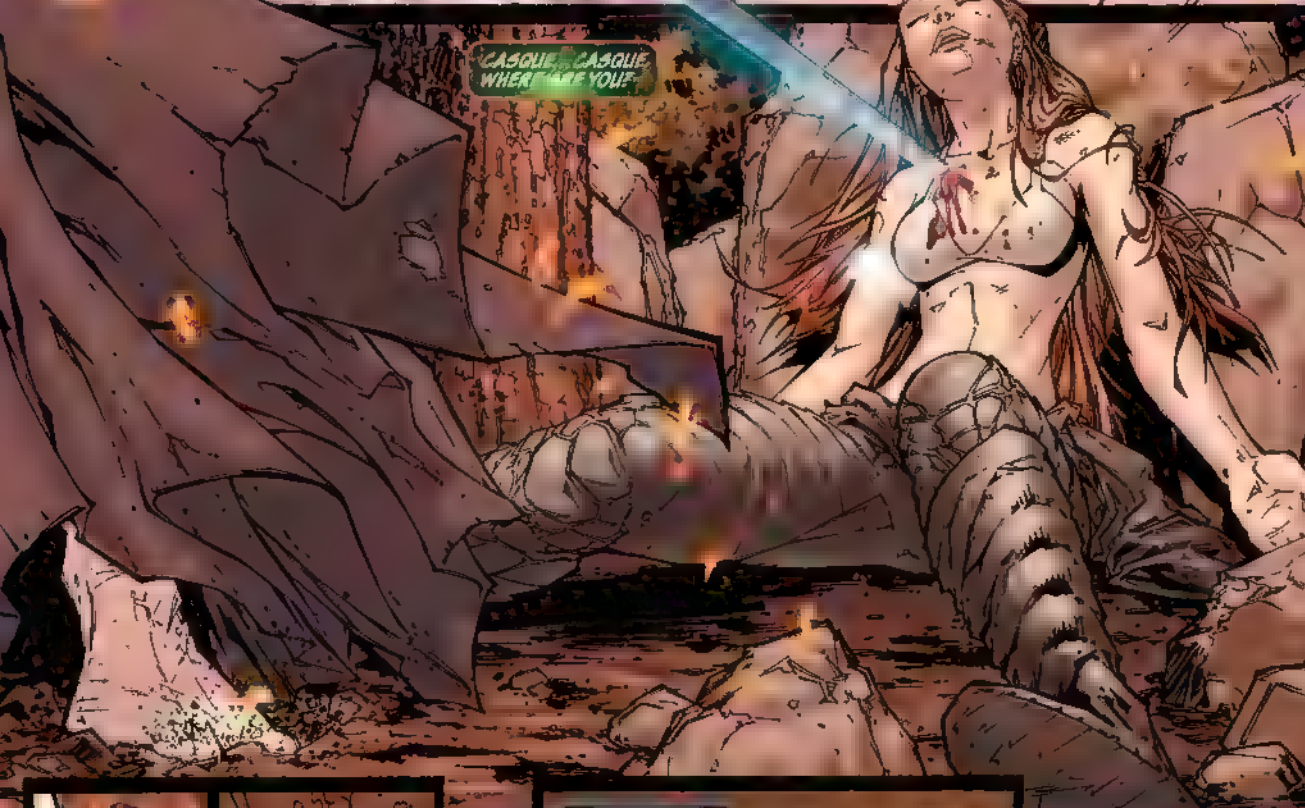
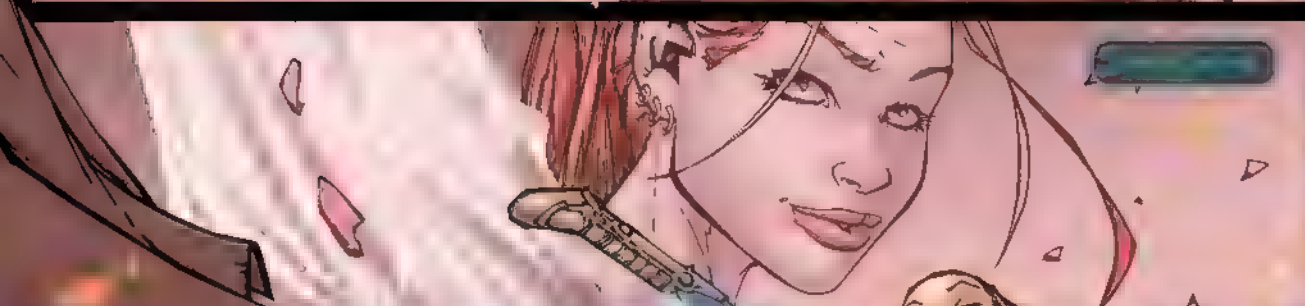
FAREWELL,
KIANI.



SUCH A
WARRIOR.

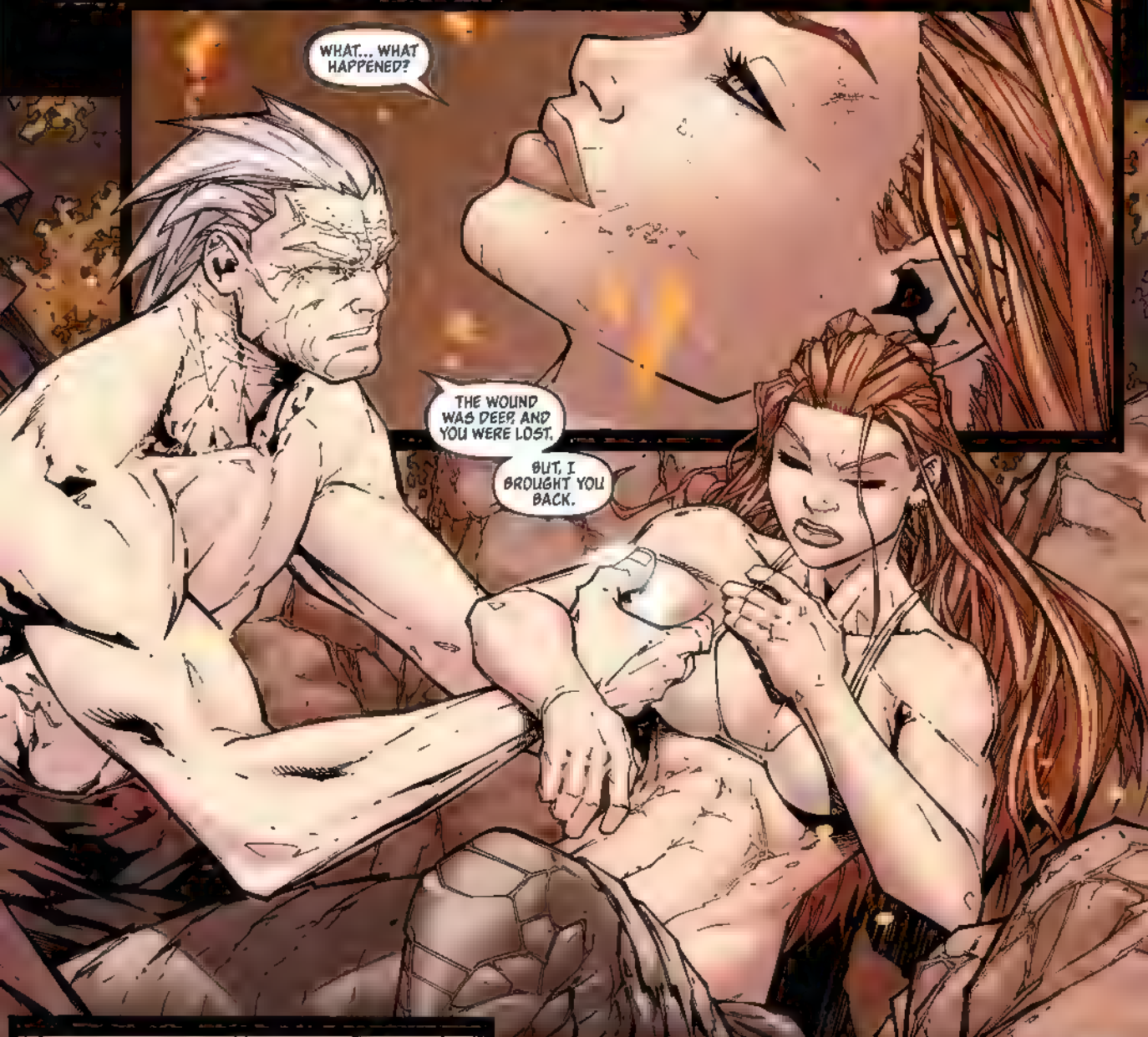


WHAT A WASTE.
I COULD HAVE
USED YOU.





MY DEAR
KIANI.



WHAT... WHAT
HAPPENED?

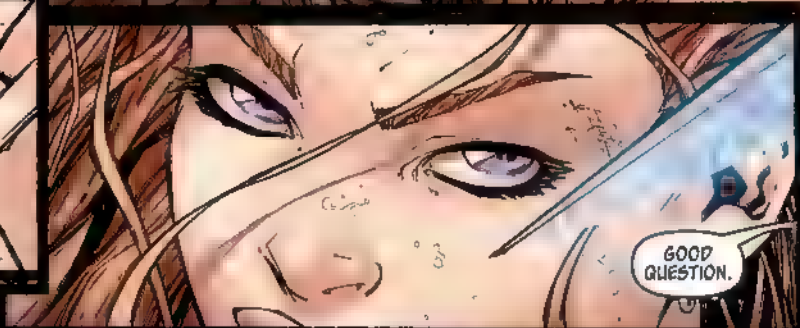
THE WOUND
WAS DEEP, AND
YOU WERE LOST.

BUT, I
BROUGHT YOU
BACK.

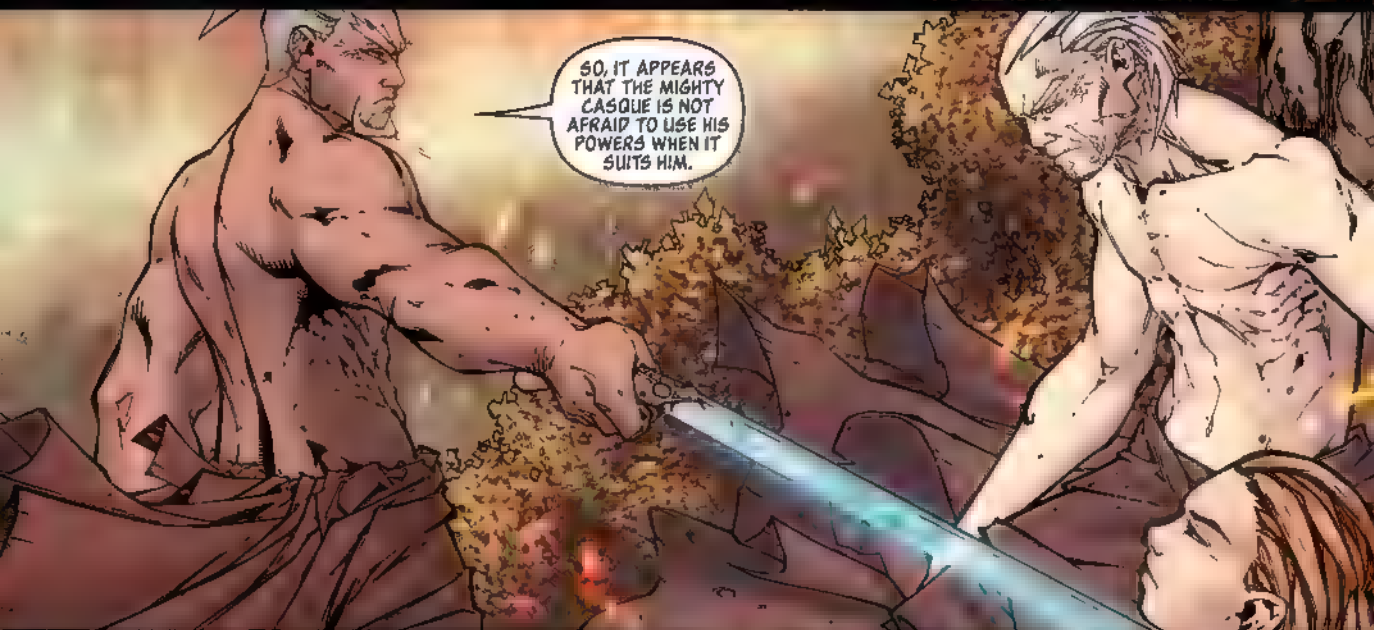


THE SCAR...
IT'S BLACK.

HOW DID
YOU DO THIS?



GOOD
QUESTION.



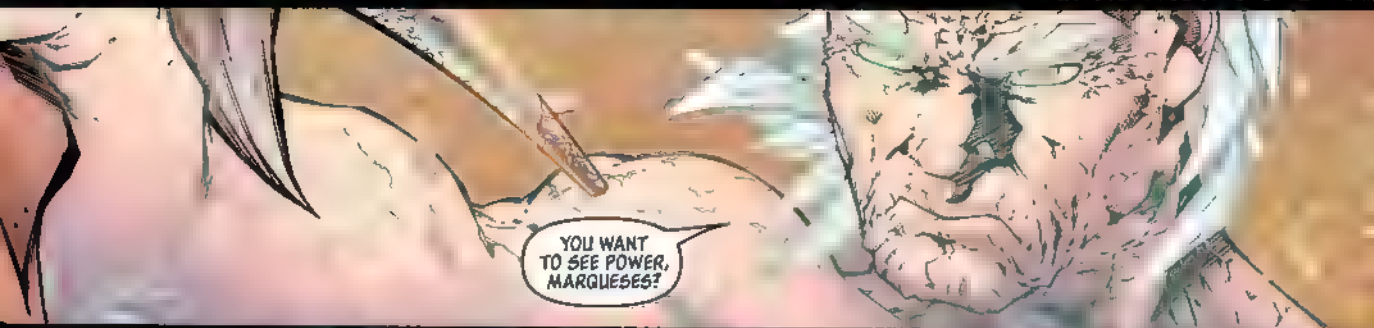
SO, IT APPEARS
THAT THE MIGHTY
CASQUE IS NOT
AFRAID TO USE HIS
POWERS WHEN IT
SUITS HIM.



TELL ME, WOULD
YOU BE ABLE TO
SAVE HER IF I CUT
OFF HER PRETTY
LITTLE HEAD?



ENOUGH!



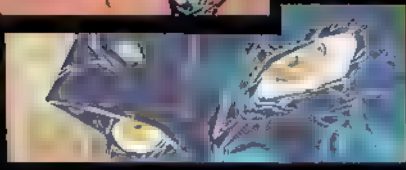
YOU WANT
TO SEE POWER,
MARQUESES?



I'LL SHOW
YOU POWER.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING??

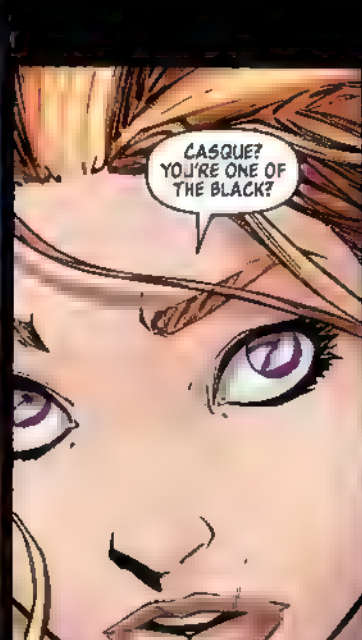
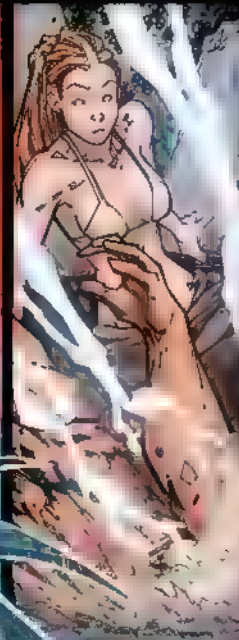
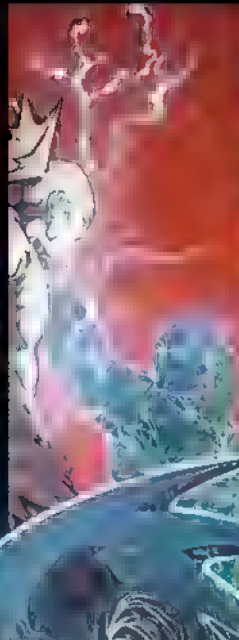
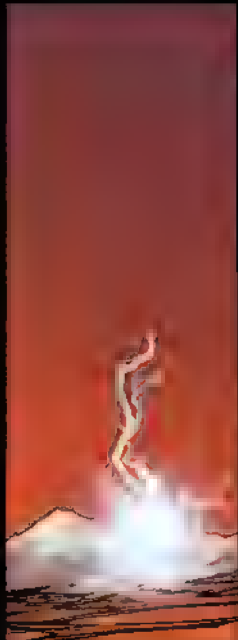


CASQUE?



YOU WERE
WISE TO FEAR THE
BLACK, FOR WE ARE
BEYOND ANYTHING
YOU CAN
COMPREHEND.

BEHOLD THE
POWER OF THE
BLACK. IT WILL BE
THE LAST THING
YOU EVER SEE.



I AM. I AM
SORRY, KIANI. I DID
NOT WANT YOU TO FIND
OUT LIKE THIS. I REALIZE
THERE IS MUCH I
SHOULD TELL YOU.

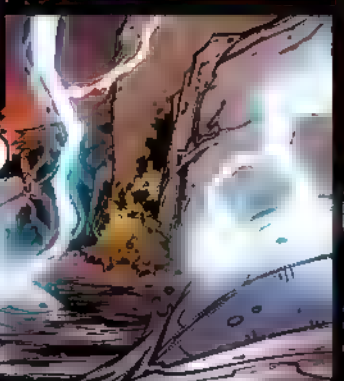
I WISH I
COULD EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING TO
YOU.



THEY ARE
COMING.



MY BRETHREN.





THE BLACK.

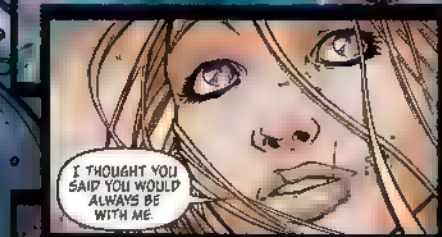


WHAT DO THEY WANT?

ME.



I MUST GO WITH THEM.



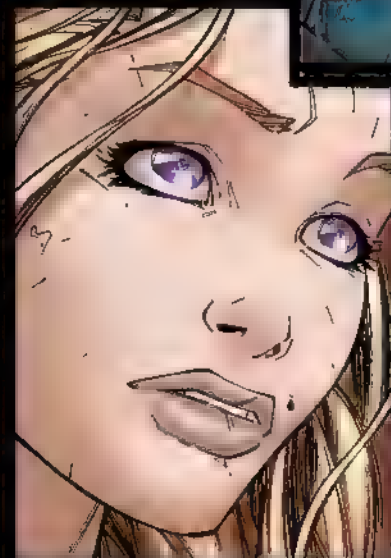
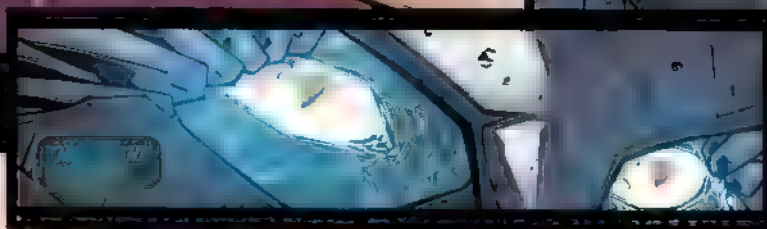
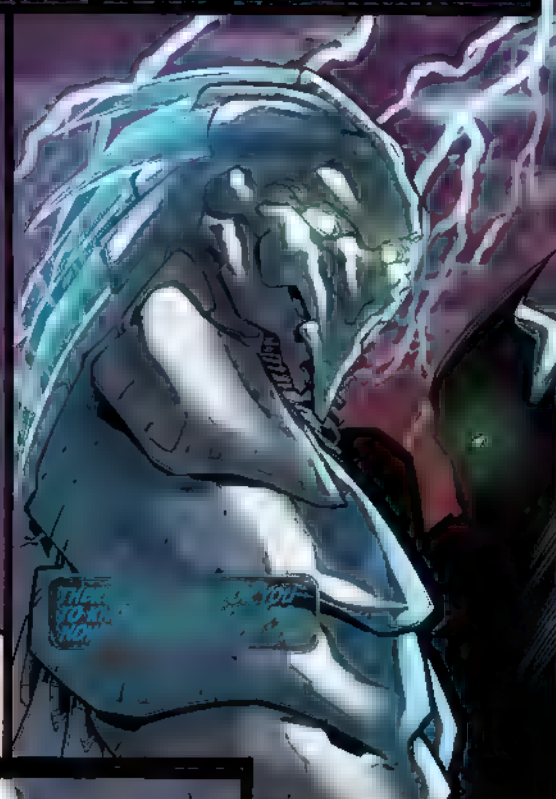
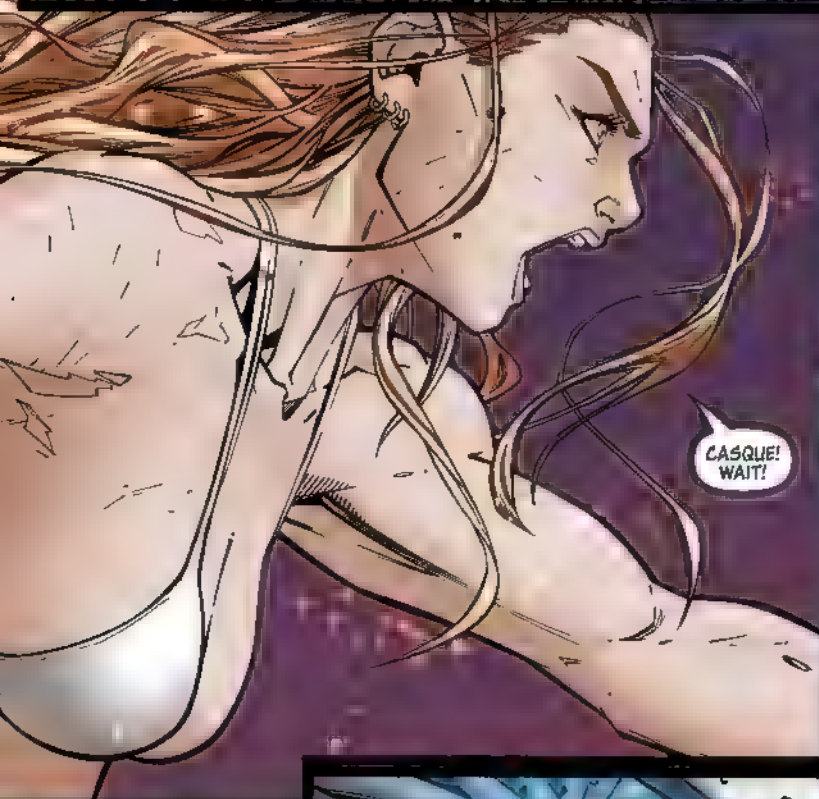
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WOULD ALWAYS BE WITH ME.

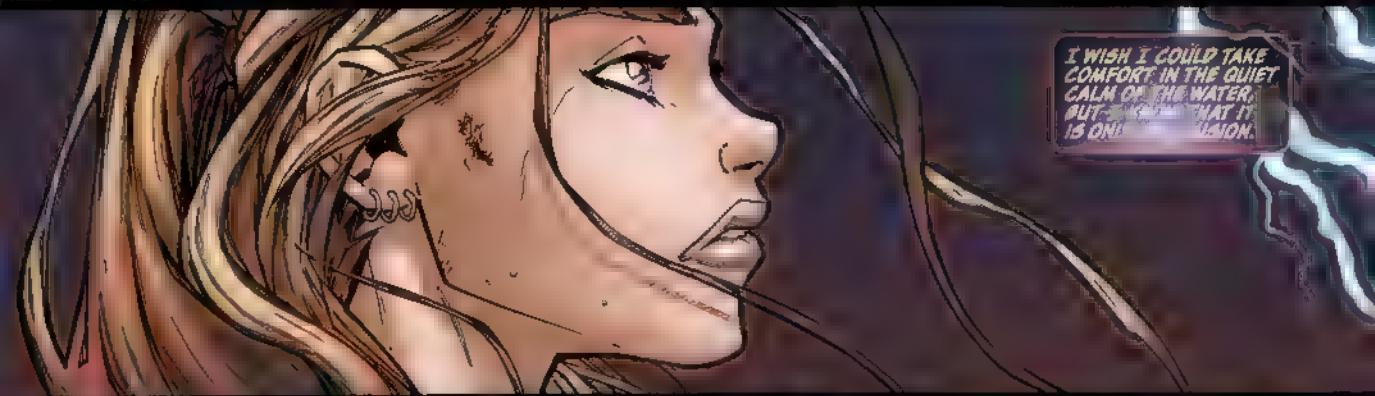


I WAS WRONG.



NO.





I WISH I COULD TAKE COMFORT IN THE QUIET CALM OF THE WATER, BUT KNOWING THAT IT IS ONLY A LIE.



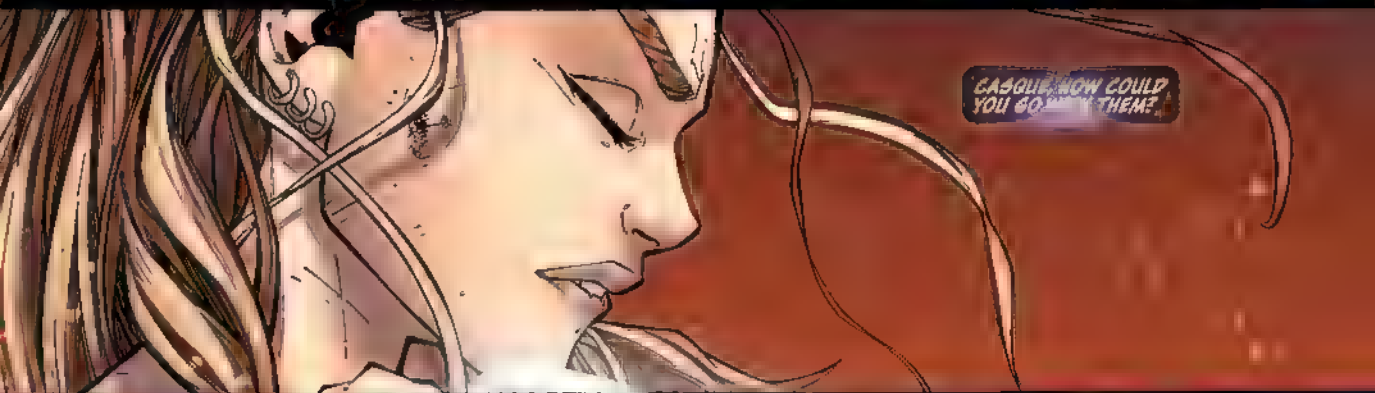
FOR ME AND FOR MY PEOPLE, THERE WILL BE NO MORE REST, WAITING FOR US.

THIS MAYLANDER SEEMS INTENT ON OUR DESTRUCTION. AND NOW, THANKS TO MARGUESES, HE MAY HAVE THE MEANS TO CARRY OUT HIS PLANS. SO, HE IS NOT OUR ONLY CONCERN.



IN OUR HISTORY, THE BLACK HAVE MOSTLY EXISTED IN MYTH. BUT EVEN AS MYTHS, THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN ANYTHING BUT DARK OMENS PLANNING OUR WORLD. THEIR RETURN CAN ONLY BRING DEATH AND DANGER.

MY ENTIRE LIFE, I HAVE LIVED WITH A PAIN DEEP INSIDE OF ME. HOT AND BURNING. IT WAS MY RAGE. BUT NOW I FEEL ANOTHER PAIN, COLD AND DARK. IT IS MY FEAR.



CASQUE, HOW COULD YOU GOVERN THEM?



AND, WITHOUT YOU, HOW CAN WE HOPE TO SURVIVE?



#0

COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM
DAWN OF WAR





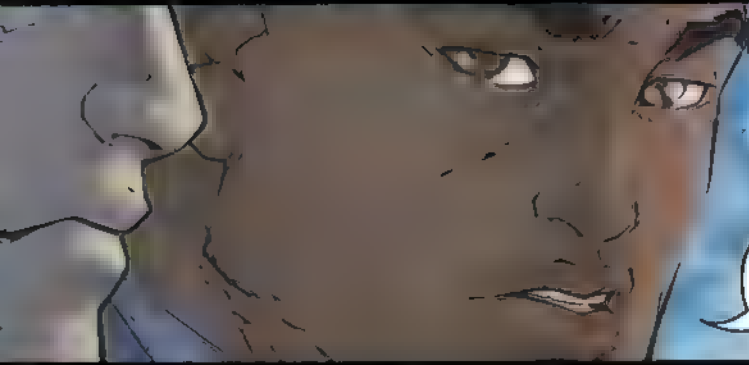
...I MEAN, I JUST DON'T GET IT. WHY AREN'T WE ALLOWED TO CARRY WATER ON US AT THIS BASE? AND WHY IS THE ONLY LATRINE IN THE WHOLE PLACE LOCKED AWAY DOWN ON LEVEL EIGHT?

LOOK, NEBRASKA. WE GO BACK TO BASIC TRAINING TOGETHER, AND I EVEN HELPED GET YOU ASSIGNED UP HERE. BUT, YOU'VE ONLY BEEN ASSIGNED TO THIS POST FOR A WEEK. I'VE BEEN HERE FOR SIX MONTHS.

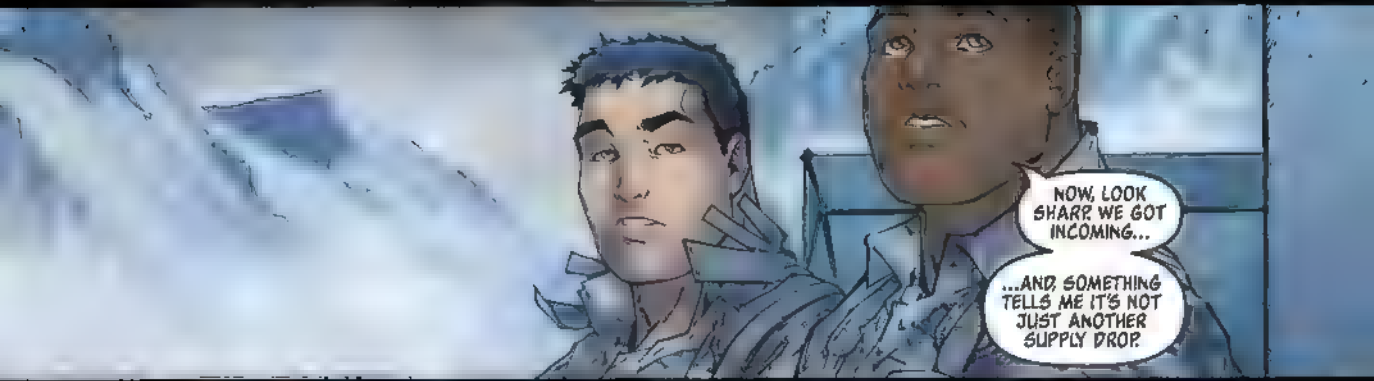


WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

I'D TELL YOU IF I KNEW ANYTHING, BUT I DON'T. UP HERE, THERE ARE NO ANSWERS. SO, YOU MIGHT AS WELL FORGET ABOUT YOUR QUESTIONS, AND JUST DO YOUR DUTY.

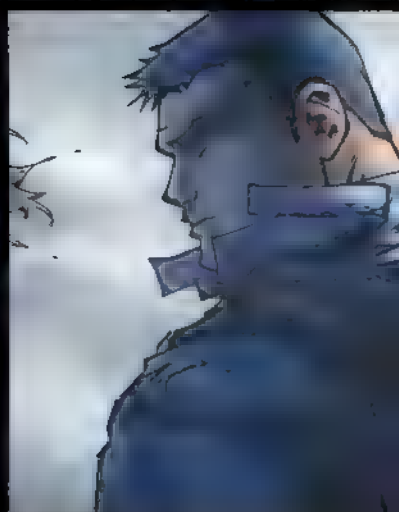


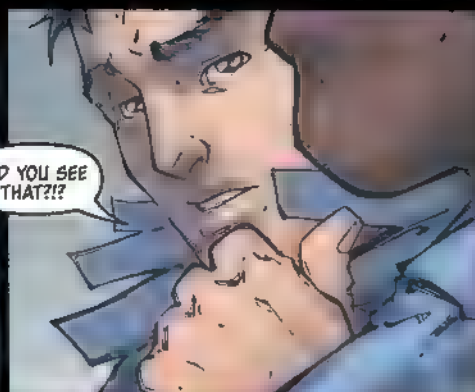
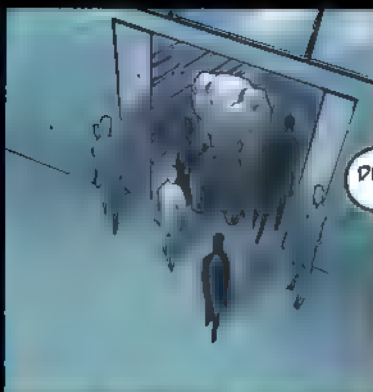
WE'RE SOLDIERS, NEBRASKA. THE WHY AIN'T OUR CONCERN.



NOW, LOOK SHARR WE GOT INCOMING...

...AND SOMETHING TELLS ME IT'S NOT JUST ANOTHER SUPPLY DROP.





DID YOU SEE THAT???



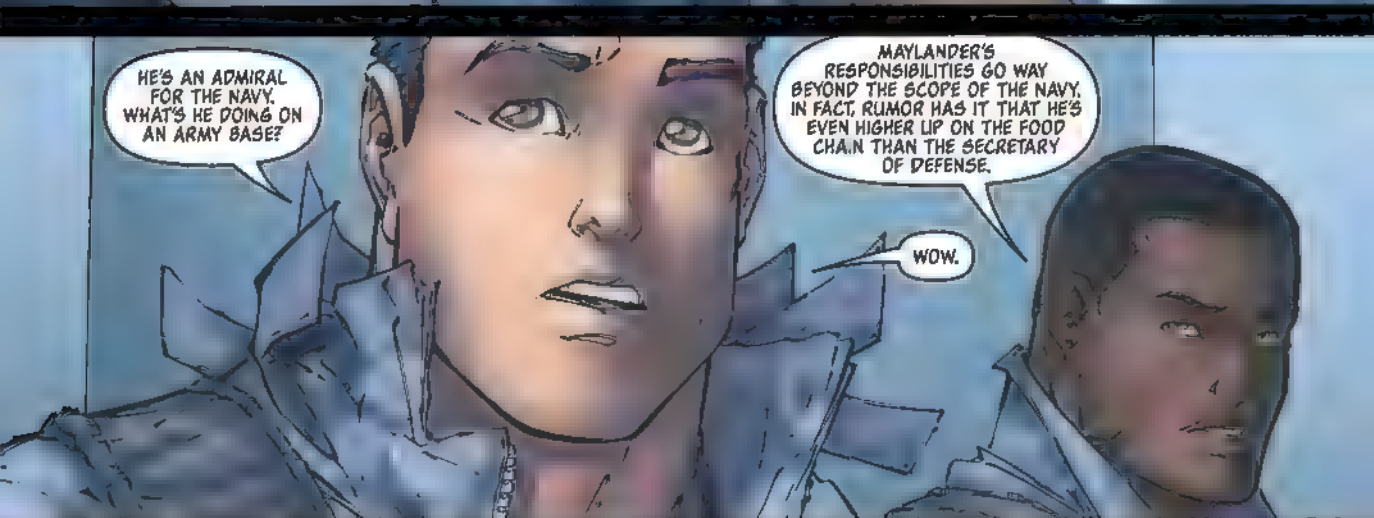
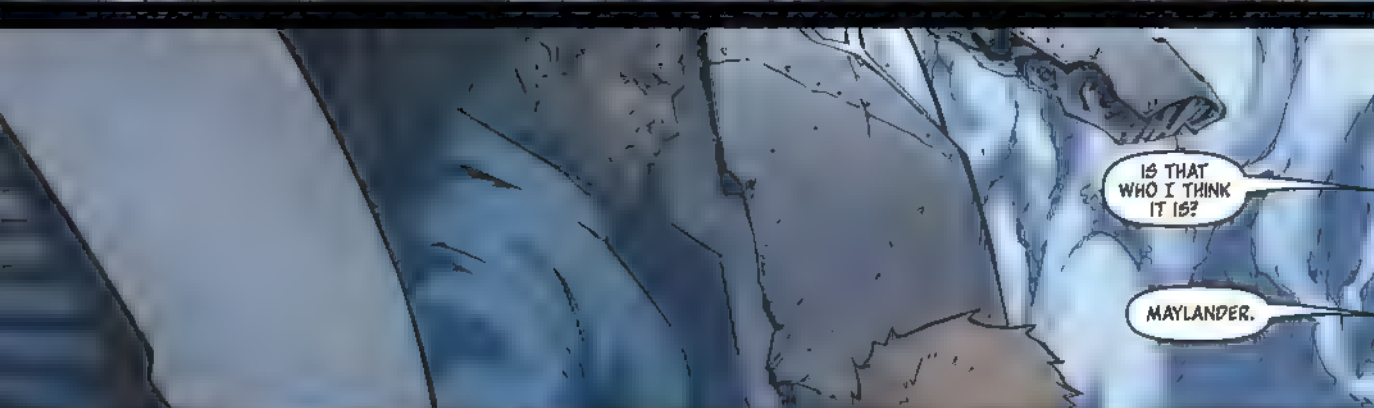
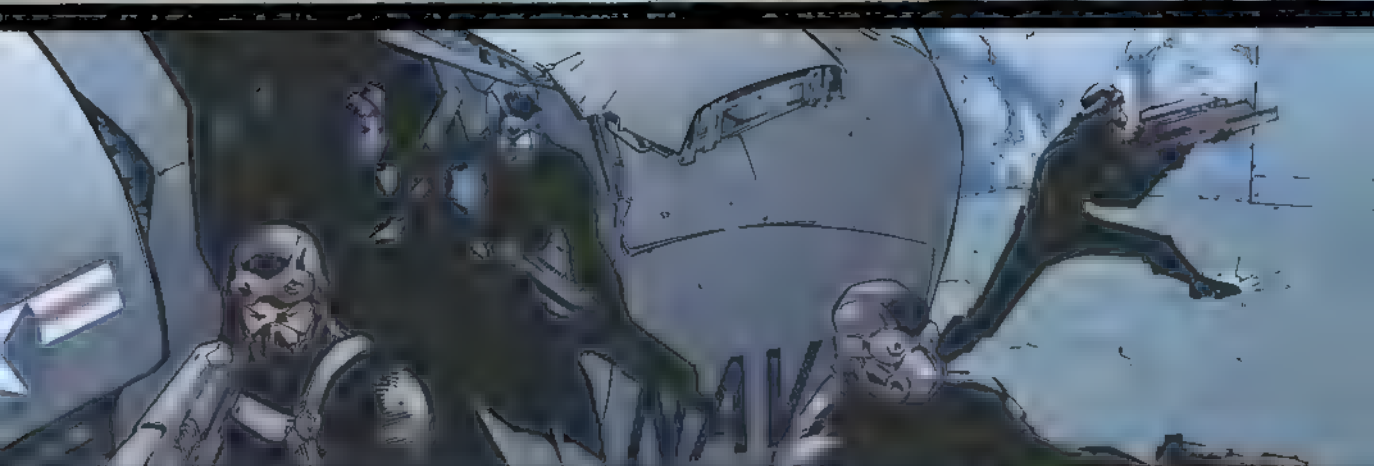
WHAT A
MAGNIFICENT
SPECIMEN.

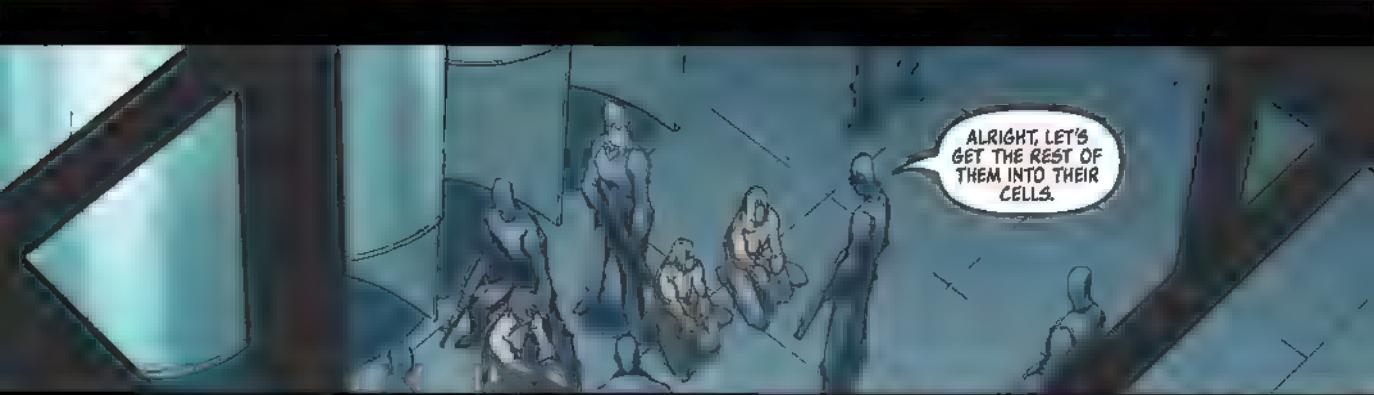


THIS ONE ISN'T
QUITE LIKE THE OTHERS.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE AN
ALMOST SYMBIOTIC
RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE WATER.

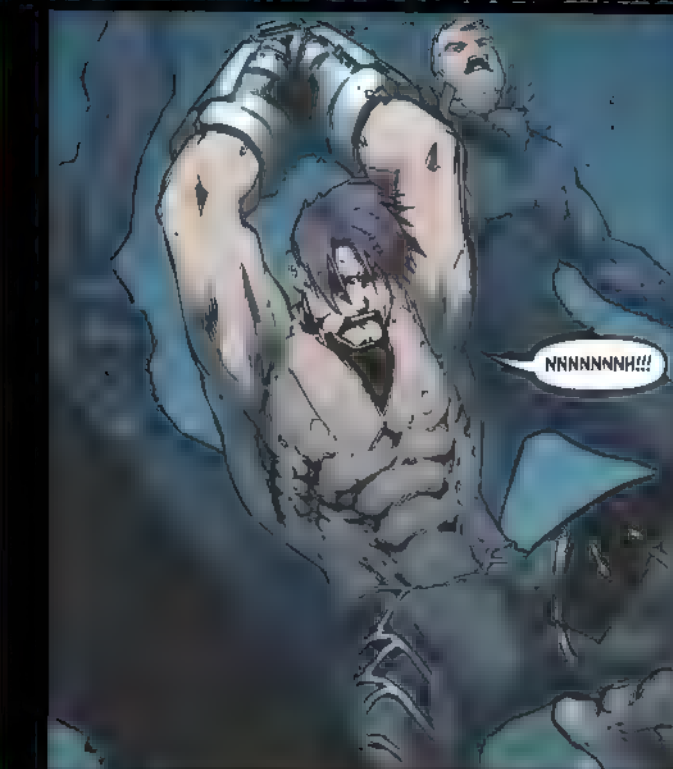
DON'T WORRY, THE
CONTAINMENT LIQUID
WITHIN THE CYLINDER HAS BEEN
LACED WITH VARIOUS TOXINS
TO DAMPEN ANY POTENTIAL
REJUVENATING POWER HE
MAY POSSESS.



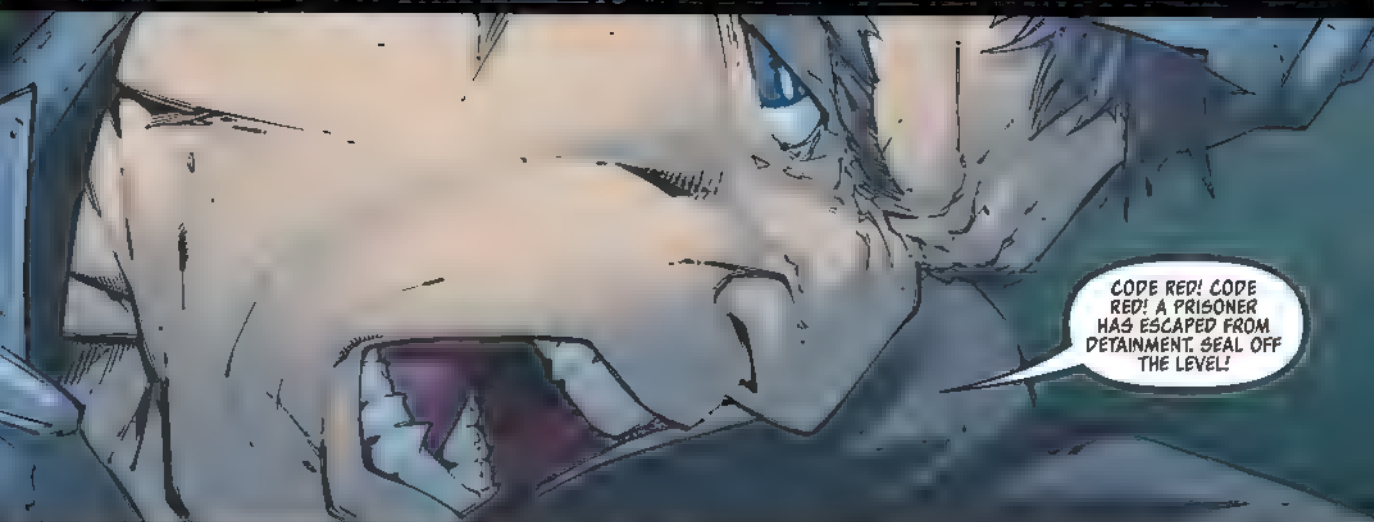




ALRIGHT, LET'S
GET THE REST OF
THEM INTO THEIR
CELLS.



NNNNNNH!!!



CODE RED! CODE
RED! A PRISONER
HAS ESCAPED FROM
DETAINMENT. SEAL OFF
THE LEVEL!



I CAN'T IMAGINE MAYLANDER WOULD BE SO INTERESTED IN THESE GUYS, IF THEY WERE JUST YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL TERRORISTS.

NO, THIS IS SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER. THAT ONE WAS ENCASED IN SOME KIND OF WATER. I WONDER IF THERE IS A CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT LAST MONTH AT THE GREAT LAKES. DID YOU SEE ANY OF THE FOOTAGE?

NO.



IT WAS INCREDIBLE. ALL OF THE LAKES, ALL OF THE WATER, JUST FLOATED INTO THE SKY AND FORMED GIANT ORBS. MORE THAN SIX THOUSAND PEOPLE DIED.

AND WHAT ABOUT THAT BLUE SUN? YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT YOU COULD SEE IT FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT CANNOT BE COINCIDENCE THAT ALL THESE... WELL, UNEXPLAINABLE THINGS ARE HAPPENING, NOW.

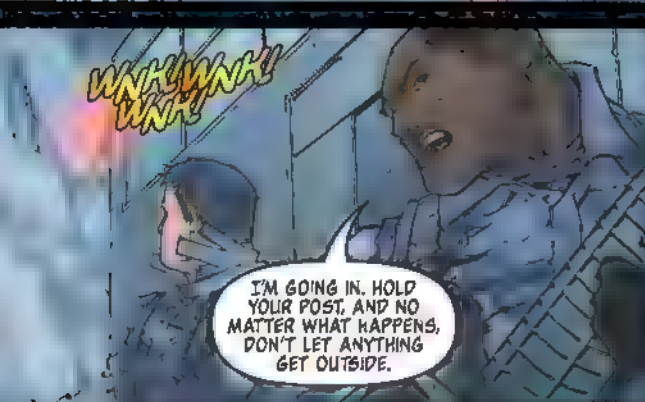
THEY MIGHT EVEN BE...



WHAT? ALIENS?

I DIDN'T SAY IT, BUT, WOULD IT BE SO HARD TO BELIEVE, CONSIDERING WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?



WAAAAH!!
WAAAAH!!

I'M GOING IN. HOLD YOUR POST, AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, DON'T LET ANYTHING GET OUTSIDE.

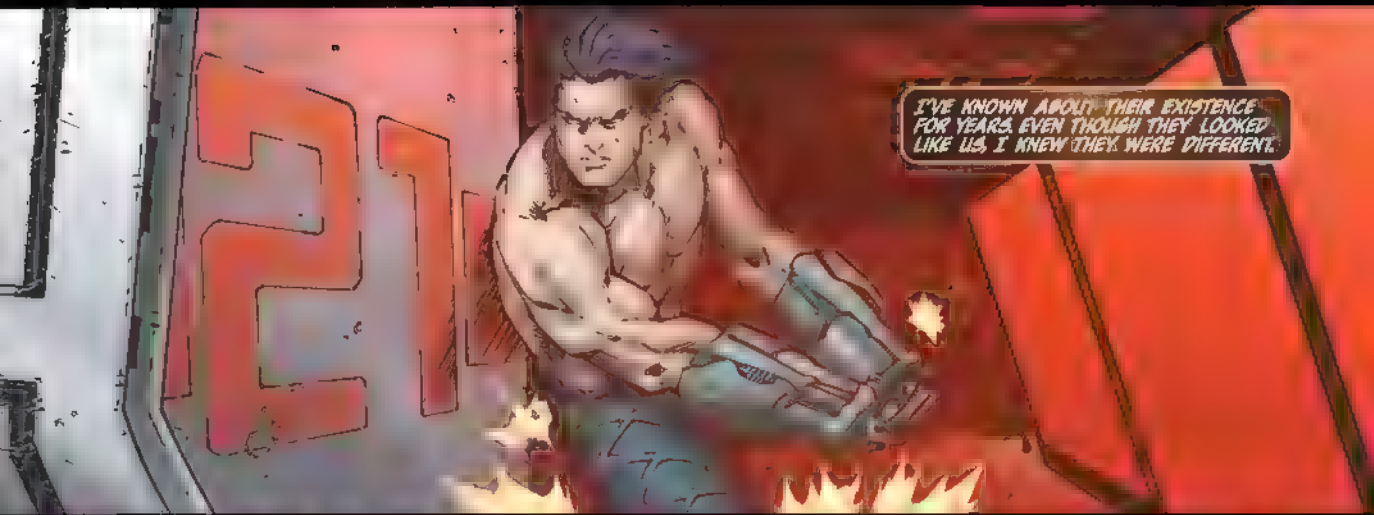


WILLIAMS, WAIT--

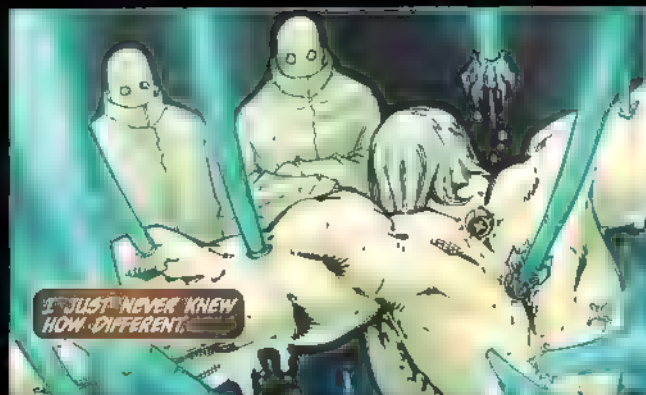
THAT'S AN ORDER, LIEUTENANT!



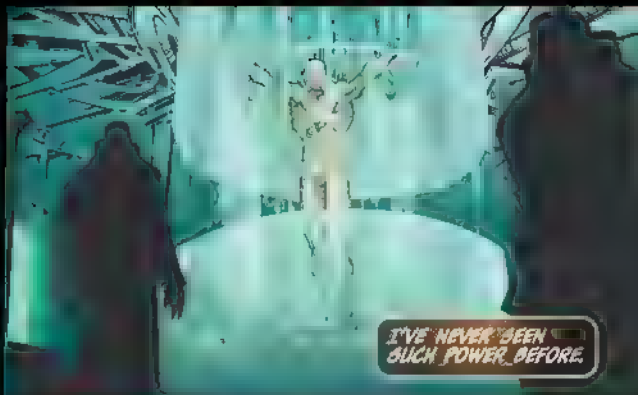
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?



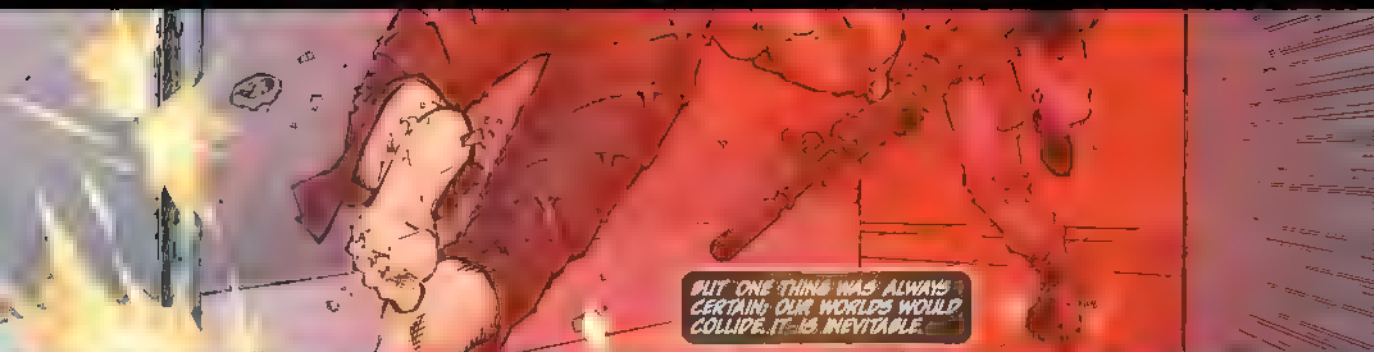
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT THEIR EXISTENCE FOR YEARS. EVEN THOUGH THEY LOOKED LIKE US, I KNEW THEY WERE DIFFERENT.



I JUST NEVER KNEW HOW DIFFERENT.



I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH POWER BEFORE.



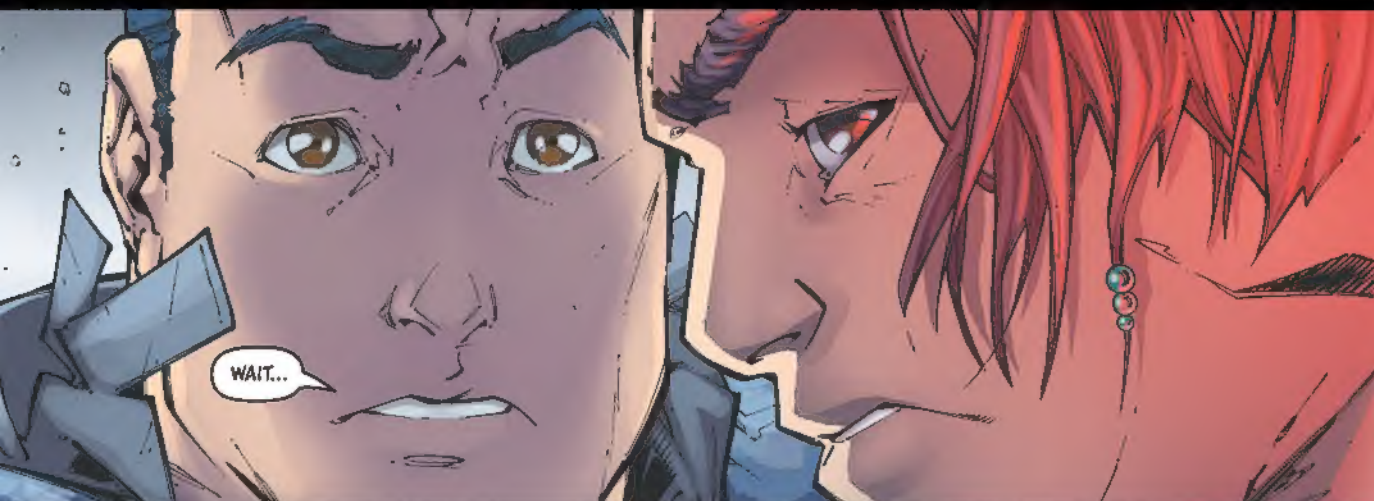
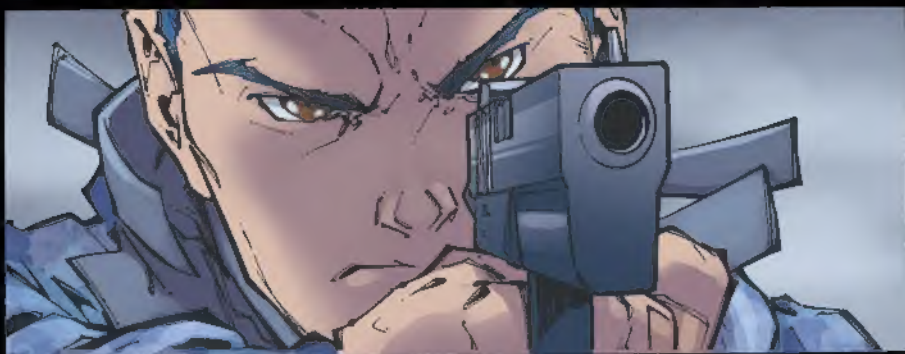
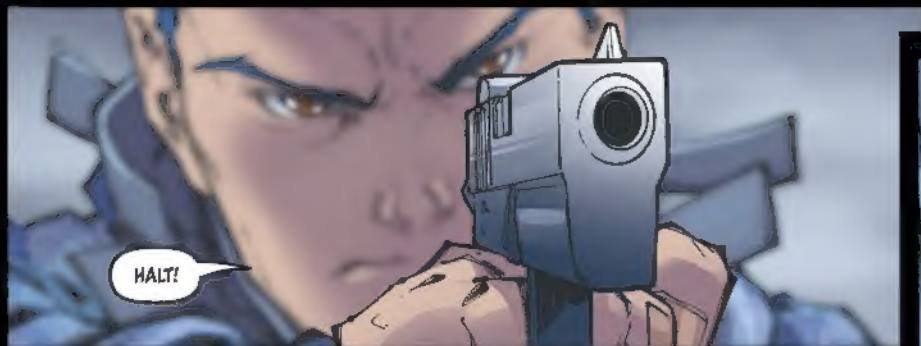
BUT ONE THING WAS ALWAYS CERTAIN: OUR WORLDS WOULD COLLIDE. IT IS INEVITABLE.



AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I HAVE TO WONDER IF WE WILL BE THE ONE RAISING OUR BANNERS AT THE END.



OR WILL IT BE THEM?



BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM!

INFORM THE LAB
THAT IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY'LL HAVE THEIR
AUTOPSY SPECIMEN
SOONER THAN
EXPECTED

YES, SIR.

WHAT WAS
HIS NAME?

NEBRASKA, SIR.
LIEUTENANT ANDREW
NEBRASKA.

FOR THE RECORD,
LIEUTENANT ANDREW
NEBRASKA WAS KILLED IN
THE LINE OF DUTY, DURING A
WEAPONS EXERCISE AT A
TRAINING FACILITY IN
DEATH VALLEY.

WILLIAMS, YOU'LL
WRITE A PERSONAL
LETTER TO HIS NEXT OF
KIN TO BACK UP THE
REPORT.

HE DIDN'T
HAVE ANY FAMILY,
SIR. HE WAS AN
ONLY CHILD, AND HIS
PARENTS DIED
YEARS AGO.

EVEN
BETTER.



PREPARE TO
BRING THE NTT*
ONLINE.

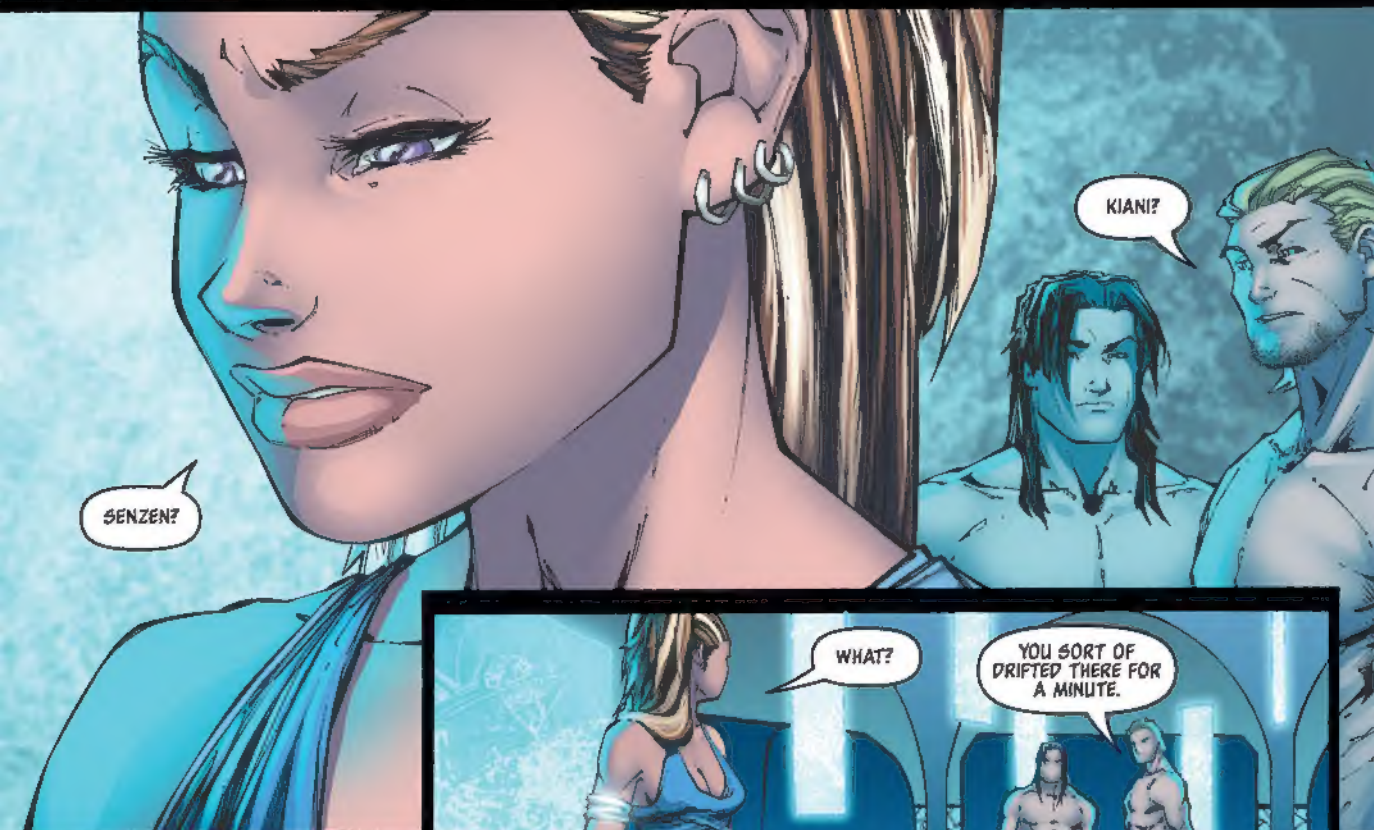
* NEURAL
TRANSFORMER
TRANSPONDER.



ACTIVATE.

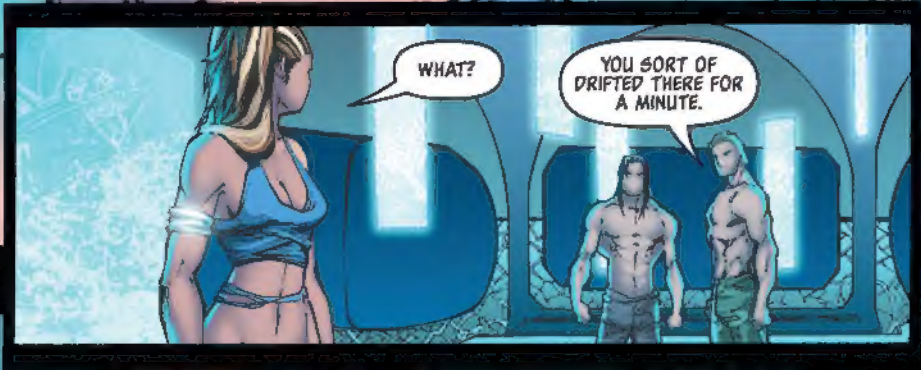
AHHHHHHH!!!





SENZEN?

KIANI?



WHAT?

YOU SORT OF
DRIFTED THERE FOR
A MINUTE.

AS I WAS SAYING,
WHEN IT WAS SOLELY A
MATTER OF SENZEN AND THE
OTHERS MISSING, THE COUNCIL
WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE A SEARCH
AND RESCUE MISSION, DUE TO A
GROWING FEAR THAT OUR
EXISTENCE MIGHT BE EXPOSED
TO THE SURFACE WORLD



BUT, NOW THAT
ONE OF THEIR OWN,
COUNCILMAN MARQUESES,
HAS ALSO DISAPPEARED,
WE'VE BEEN GIVEN THE
GO AHEAD.

AND ALTHOUGH FINDING
HIM IS OFFICIALLY THE PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE OF OUR MISSION, FOR US,
OUR DUTY HAS NEVER BEEN CLEARER.
WE WILL FIND SENZEN, AND THE
OTHERS THAT DISAPPEARED FROM
SHEPHERD'S FIELD.



WE WILL NOT
FAIL THEM.



TO BE CONTINUED!